

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE

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Saviour Of Humanity

The annual conference of the National Association of Teachers in Selective Central Schools was held at Liverpool on Saturday, February 20. It was welcomed by the Lord Mayor of Liverpool, Alderman W. Denton, J.P., and supported by Councillor C. G. S. Gordon, LL.B., chairman of the Liverpool Education Committee, Mr. Mell, M.A., director of education for Liverpool, and other civic dignitaries.

The presidential address by Councillor J. Hewett, L.C.P., of Walthamstow, provided much food for thought on the necessity for and value of education. We are reproducing hereunder excerpts from a very interesting speech.

EDUCATION is concerned with the development of all the faculties of the child. Nothing is more important than this. The children represent the richest asset that any nation possesses. The future of the state and of the whole world is in their keeping. A nation that neglects its child life is doomed. However rich and prosperous it may be, in material things, its history is in the past, its days are numbered. But, when we speak of "Education" we do not all visualise the same thing. This aspect of the question has impressed me more and more as the years have passed by.

In a most interesting and inspiring address to the British Association, Sir Richard Livingstone states very clearly what he means when he speaks of "Education."

He says, "The model to which education should work in every human being is a figure with a body, a character, and a mind, each of which is capable of development towards an ideal; a body, with its own perfection of physical development and fitness, of health, of skill of hand and precision of eye; a character, whose excellence lies in the great virtues: a mind capable of some perception of what the world is; and of what man has done, and has been and may be . . . A body undeveloped; a character weak and debased; a mind unaware of the universe which we inhabit, or of the achievements and ideals of mankind, proclaim the failure of education and walk the world as a standing reproach to it."

With this lofty and comprehensive view of what "Education" embraces I hope we are all in agreement.

But whether so or not, "Education" as expressed in this idealistic conception, alone can save the world from destruction. Apart from this there is no hope.

Dreams and Realities

THE world of to-day is not as God desires it to be, but as man has made it. It is the reflection of man's spirit. When mankind in general conforms to the Divine pattern, then, and then only, will the world become what the Almighty intended it to be.

It is because of this possibility of complete development of body, mind and spirit, lifting mankind above the level of the animal kingdom, to the dignity of manhood and womanhood, that there is hope of a brighter and better day.

"These things shall be, a loftier race

Than ere the world hath known, shall rise,

With flame of freedom in their souls

And light of knowledge in their eyes."

A dream, a vision this may be, but "where there is no vision the people perish."



Councillor J. Hewett.

Man's dreams of to-day are the realities of to-morrow. What the human mind can conceive and the spirit desire to-morrow will be accomplished.

Therefore, in spite of the depressing atmosphere of the world to-day, we can still look forward with confidence to the future.

Vagaries of Existing System

The opportunities for higher education vary not according to the nation's needs, but according to the peculiar outlook of district committees. In one area secondary provision for the time being seems adequate, but in another it is sadly lacking.

This fact is realised very keenly by teachers in selective central schools when their scholars move to other areas. Some authorities, priding themselves upon the adequacy of their secondary provision and having no selective central schools of their own, forget or do not understand that the selective central school is, in reality, a secondary school of another type, although at present subject to the limitations of the elementary code. Children from these schools moving into such areas are often denied admission to the only type of secondary school available, and are compelled to "mark time," in one of the senior schools, the result being that many a brilliant child, whose parents would willingly have allowed him or her to remain at school for a longer period, leaves school at the age of 14 years.

In fairness to other areas, I must say, that some authorities similarly placed willingly open the doors of their secondary and technical schools to these removals. Much depends upon the capacity and breadth of outlook of the directors concerned.

In addition to this question of varying accommodation, the conditions of entry, the percentage of special places, and the fees charged in one area, are not comparable with those of another; and so far as the ratepayers are concerned the financial burden, for what is after all a national service, is most unequally distributed; the education rate increases as poverty in the area increases, and vice versa.

If a really national system is to be evolved, giving equality of opportunity to all sections of society, these anomalies must be seriously grappled with.

The time is over-ripe for a comprehensive review of the whole educational system.

Once let the community as a whole realise its responsibility and understand that riches of untold worth exist in the undeveloped talents of its members, these many problems will be faced and solved.

The greatest tragedy of the ages is the waste of undeveloped human talents. You will remember those memorable words of Thomas Gray :

" Perhaps in this neglected spot is laid
Some heart once pregnant with celestial fire,
Hands that the rod of empire might have swayed
Or waked to ecstasy the living lyre.

Some village Hampden, that with dauntless breast
The little tyrant of his fields withstood ;
Some mute, inglorious Milton here may rest,
Some Cromwell guiltless of his country's blood.

But knowledge to their eyes, her ample page
Rich with the stores of time did ne'er unroll ;
Chill penury repressed their noble rage
And froze the genial current of the soul."

And all the world is the poorer for this loss.

Wonderful Results of Severe Tests

INTERNALLY, from the nursery school upwards, developments of outstanding importance have taken and are still taking place. The whole outlook of the infants school has, during recent years, been revolutionised. The junior schools are developing on entirely new lines. The senior schools are facing their difficult task with great courage. The relationship between teacher and child has improved considerably. Parents and teachers have drawn more closely together to the benefit of all concerned.

These and other improvements have been possible because of that growing freedom from outside interference which the schools of to-day enjoy.

That this freedom has been widely used has revealed itself most definitely on more than one occasion in times of national difficulty and danger.

The steadiness and calmness of the whole community during the constitutional crisis of December last reflects the greatest credit upon those responsible for the early training of our people. So much depends upon those early years.

But the severest test of all, still fresh in our memory, came in August, 1914.

A great appeal was made to those educated in the nation's schools. The response was overwhelming.

Whatever may have been the opinions held by those in authority, as a people we entered the Great War, not feeling that as a nation we were insecure, or that our national interests were endangered, but inspired by a spirit of unselfish idealism.

It was a war to end war.

To this unselfish appeal the best of our people responded. The sincerity of that appeal was never doubted. The honour of their native land was at stake. For honour they were prepared to sacrifice all.

Surely "Character," whose excellence lies in the great virtues, had not been forgotten or neglected in our schools.

If to-day the memory of those things seems somewhat ironical this fact remains. The schools had done their duty. To those boys and girls who, but a year or two before, had been scholars in our schools, the land of universal peace, "Where the sword would be beaten into the ploughshare, and the spear into the pruning hook, and the nations seek war no more," was no idle dream, but a great possibility—the goal towards which humanity was travelling.

Lessons of Past Ignorance

TO-DAY the nations of the world, ourselves included, are seeking security where security cannot be found.

It was Mr. MacDonald who said, "Arms have never yet saved a nation from war, nor have they given security to either strong or weak nations against attack. History has placed that upon the throne of unassailable truth."

Yet this is the course we all are taking. In spite of the lessons of the past, ignorance still abounds. National fears, suspicion and distrust inspire and hasten these warlike preparations for some possible future calamity, and with the preparing an atmosphere is created which renders more probable the very catastrophe all are anxious to avoid.

"Prepare for war and war will come."

Yet no nation really desires war, all are anxious to avoid it. "Never again" is still the heartfelt cry of our people.

And if in days to come, when sanity returns, the League of Nations is to arise afresh from the humiliating position it occupies to-day; if universal peace is to be established in our midst and justice operate throughout the world, the impulse and the life must have their source and origin, not in the traditions and diplomacy of bygone days, but in the idealism of our schools—in the excellence of the great virtues.

"Education," in its fullest and widest sense, alone can save humanity from destruction.

School Instruction in Local Government

IN last month's Scottish Notes reference was made to the lack of any instruction in local government in our school curricula and a memorandum has now been submitted to the Scottish Education Department. A deputation, consisting of Mr. Robert Wood, M.A., director of education for Berwick, Mr. R. C. T. Mair, M.A., O.B.E., LL.B., director of education, Lanarkshire, Mr. A. G. M. Archibald, the chairman, and Mr. J. M. Mortimer, the secretary of the Scottish District Committee, was received by the department on March 17. The following are extracts from the memorandum :

It is not intended that this memorandum be regarded as an exhaustive statement, but there are matters to which it is considered desirable to refer and, in view of the request of a deputation to be heard, these matters are stated briefly.

The Association points to the following features as illustrating the desirability of insuring that pupils do not leave school at the age of fifteen ignorant of the existence, advantages and administration of facilities provided in their locality from public funds.

1. The continually increasing scope of the public services since the War and the growing part they play in the life of the community have not been accompanied by any organised effort to bring the general scheme and the larger aspects and purposes of local government within the knowledge of the rising generation.
2. Difficulties daily arise in local administration on account of the apathy of the public or ignorance of the existence of public provision.
3. It is notorious that the general public is indifferent to local government administration and this is shown by the low percentage of electors exercising their votes, especially in rural areas and in connection with the appointment of the less spectacular bodies.
4. The prevalence of ill-informed agitation regarding the cost of local services obscures the judgment of the elected representatives and materially impedes progressive measures.
5. The need exists for considerable propaganda by local authorities, particularly on matters of public health, and much of this of necessity is undertaken among adults whose ideas have become rigid.

The Association is not unaware of difficulties which would accompany teaching on the lines of this representation, but none of the anticipated difficulties appear to be more than usually serious. This Association, both at headquarters and in its branches throughout the country, would be glad to give every assistance to education authorities.

N.A.L.G.O.'s

EDUCATIONAL TOUR

UNITED STATES and CANADA

Places of Interest to be Visited—No. 4

TORONTO—The Second Largest City in Canada

TO a visitor arriving for the first time in Toronto one of the most striking views of the city is to be obtained from the magnificent waterfront. There is nothing like it for comparison in the Old World. In the foreground streams of cars are hurrying along a wide motor road for which thousands of acres of land have been reclaimed from the lake, and behind this rises a long line of stately skyscrapers, including the highest building in the British Empire, and the vast Royal York Hotel.

Nearly three hundred years ago the first French adventurers were led to the present site of Toronto by their Indian guides. The traders slowly and laboriously followed the explorers westward and in the winter of 1750-51 a fort sprang up in the wilderness near the mouth of the Humber River. Fort Rouille, as it was called, carried on a profitable business as a fur trading centre for nearly ten years, but was eventually abandoned and burned by the French when threatened with a British attack in 1759. It was in 1793 that Governor Simcoe, first Governor of Upper Canada, visited Toronto and was much impressed by its extensive and well-protected harbour. He selected the site for the capital of Upper Canada, and founded the town of York, in honour of his friend, the Duke of York. The growth of York was slow, however, and at the time of its capture by the Americans in 1813, the population was only seven hundred, most of whom were members of the Militia.

Recovering from the effects of war, York entered into a new era of development. By 1834 the population had grown to over nine thousand, and the town was incorporated as a city, resuming the original Indian name, Toronto. After a century of progress Toronto is now the second largest city in Canada. It embraces an area of 35 square miles and Greater Toronto with its suburbs has a population of 852,000.

Toronto enjoys the distinctive title of "The City of Homes," because over sixty per cent of the houses in the beautiful residential districts are owned and cared for by the families which occupy them. A drive through this wide-spread area reveals a succession of well-kept houses with trim lawns, beautiful gardens and a wealth of shady trees, shrubs and evergreens. The complete absence of fences (so noticeable a feature in the New World) adds to the charm of these delightful suburbs. The English influence is definitely stronger in Toronto than either Quebec or Montreal, and the whole city is sensibly town-planned.

on a scale which is unparalleled in this country.

Toronto is also a most important commercial and industrial centre. There are thousands of successful commercial enterprises, including two of the world's largest departmental stores. It is also the distributing point for some of Canada's wealthiest markets. The University has an annual enrolment of six thousand students and is situated in spacious grounds adjoining the Parliament Buildings.

There are many interesting examples of municipal ownership and control in Toronto. It is the headquarters of the Ontario Hydro Electric Power System, an outstanding achievement in public ownership and also one of the world's greatest power projects. The public transport system is also municipally owned and provides at cost a complete one-fare system.

Illustrated brochure giving details of this tour are obtainable from: Special Activities Department, N.A.L.G.O., 24, Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.1. (See display advertisement, page 93 for rates.)



Toronto, Ontario

THE following are further hints culled from the Home Office Booklet on Fire Protection for Householders, which can be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, Sale Office, Adastral House, Kingsway, W.C.2, price 3d. (Post free 3½d.)

Fires arising from use of Electricity

The smell of burning rubber should never be ignored. Steps should at once be taken to ascertain whether there is a fault in the domestic electrical system. If a fuse blows repeatedly, the circuit and apparatus controlled by the fuse should be examined by a competent person. It is dangerous to use, even temporarily, too thick a fuse wire, or a makeshift such as a hairpin.

An electric iron should never be left with current switched on, not even if it is placed on a stand provided with the appliance.

Use of Petrol for Domestic Purposes

The fire risks arising from the use of petrol cannot be over-emphasised. A case where petrol vapour travelled under two closed doors and along a passage 10 ft. in length, where it met an open flame and was set alight, is quoted.

A static electric spark caused by rubbing two pieces of silk together will ignite petrol fumes. Empty petrol containers are often more dangerous than full tins. It is also

Fire Protection

Hints to Householders — No. 2

pointed out that on no account should petrol be poured down a sink or allowed to find its way into a drain.

Accidents caused by Burning Clothing

Never allow a person whose clothes are on fire to remain standing for a moment. Fatalities nearly always arise from the shock of burning about the face and head. If your clothes catch fire, clap your hand over your nose and mouth to prevent inhalation of flames and air at high temperature, and lie down and roll on the floor, or in a blanket, coat or rug, if one is handy.

How to Call the Fire Brigade

It is pointed out that the use of the street fire alarm wherever possible has the advantage that it avoids any possibility of confusion or misunderstanding. Where, however, a householder is a telephone subscriber, he should have the telephone number of the local fire station displayed permanently near the telephone for immediate use should a fire occur. Pending the arrival of the fire brigade, close and keep shut all windows and doors, particularly on the lower floors. In the

absence of other appliances, a domestic fire can be dealt with effectively by beating it with a folded blanket or rug, which is kept wet by dipping in water.

Rescue and Escape

A closed door will effectively hold back smoke and hot gases and bar the spreading of flame for some time. If escape by the stairs is cut off, it is safer to stay in a room with the door shut. The door will give protection against smoke and fire long after it would be possible to live in the passages or on the stairs.

Movement in a House on Fire

Near the floor the air will be comparatively free from smoke and it will be cooler. Therefore, in moving about always crawl as close to the floor and as near to the wall as possible.

Escape by a Window

If escape from a window above ground level is necessary, do not jump. Wherever possible, a rope should be kept on all upper floors for use in the event of fire. If a rope is not available, knot sheets or blankets to make a rope. Before using, make sure that the rope is firmly anchored to some heavy article of furniture, or made fast round the pillar formed between two windows.

At Random

By "HYPERION"

Many people live their lives in an atmosphere of slight nausea, produced by constant overdoses, first of one thing and then of its antidote. That is the secret of almost half the irritability of the world, and much more than half the changes of fashion.—Sir Gilbert Murray.

Air Raid Precautions

Lastly, during the attack, the people should be ceaselessly broadcast to, the course of the raid, the action of the counter-attack, etc., being described to them as if it were a race or a prize fight, so that their brains may be occupied and their thoughts distracted.—Major General J. F. C. Fuller on "Air Defence" in the "English Review."

New Use for Husbands

There you are, you see, quite simple. If you cannot have your dear husband for a comfort and a delight, for a breadwinner and a cross-patch, for a sofa, a chair, or a hot-water bottle, one can use him as a Cross to be Borne. It reminds me of our Craft article published *passim* in all our so-very-much-alike women's papers: How to make a knitting-bag out of a top-hat. May also be used for a beret or a tea-cosy. Free patterns for all included.—From "Novel on Yellow Paper," by Stevie Smith.

Two Tall Stories

(1): Mussolini and Laval were discussing Fascism. Il Duce was bragging how Italians unquestioningly obeyed him. He said: "Watch this," and summoned an attendant.

When the man came in, Mussolini said: "Do you love your Duce better than your life?"

"Yes."
"Then jump out of the window to prove it."
The man did so.

Il Duce called a second attendant and asked him the same question, and commanded him to throw himself out of the window.

The man did so without question.

"How's that?" said Mussolini.
"Well," replied Laval, "it's impressive, but call in a third attendant and let me talk to him."

The third man came in, and Laval said: "Do you love your Duce better than life itself?"

"Yes."
"Would you jump out of the window if he asked you to do so?"

"Yes."
"You really mean to tell me that the Duce means more to you than life itself?"

"Certainly! What sort of a life is this under Fascism, anyway?"

(2):

A man who lived in a boarding-house brought a horse home with him one night, led it upstairs, and shut it in the bath-room.

The landlady, aroused by the commotion, protested, pointed to the broken balustrade, the torn stair-carpet, and the obvious maladjustment of the whole thing, and asked the man confidentially just why he had seen fit to shut a horse in the common bath-room. To which the man replied:

"In the morning, the boarders, one by one, will go into the bath-room, and will come rushing out, exclaiming: 'There's a horse in the bath-room!' I want to be able to say: 'Yes, I know.'"

Without Comment

When a detective stated at North London Police Court yesterday that the officer concerned in a case was "down with 'flu," the magistrate, Mr. Bernard Campion, asked:

"Down with 'flu'? Who is she?"

The detective: "He is down with influenza, your worship."

Mr. Campion: "Oh! I thought you meant he was with some girl. Use proper language. I am not accustomed to being addressed like that. You mean that the officer is on the sick list with influenza."—*Manchester Guardian*.

The Oxford Group and Dr. Frank Buchman

At an Oxford Group Party yesterday, Dr. Frank Buchman, the well-known evangelist, said that before being "changed" he had sometimes been tempted to popularise his evangelising work.—"News Item" from "Brave Old World," by Hugh Kingsmill and Malcolm Muggeridge.

Mr. Montagu Maynard Stamp

Lecturing on the world situation at the London School of Economics yesterday, Mr. Montagu Maynard Stamp said that, in his opinion, there was no question of the pound following the dollar, or the dollar following the pound.—"Ibid."

The Difference

Lord Hewart sees behind proposals for a retiring age for judges the hand of his arch-enemies, the bureaucrats. Such suggestions, he feels, spring from a too-hasty comparison with the Civil Service.

A judge has his hair cut regularly and his salary cut regularly, but in other respects he differs profoundly from the Civil Servant.

Rather a poor gibe for the Lord Chief Justice, I thought. Not up to your usual form, my lord!

Pretty Thick

If a Bill, now under consideration by the Ministry of Agriculture, becomes law, says a news item, cream will be sold according to standard grades of thickness.

The present test—whether it is worth while giving the cat the cream-carton to lick—is admittedly a rough-and-ready one.

More Cracks about the B.B.C.

Radio is sometimes beneficial in cases of deafness, says a doctor. And deafness, on the other hand, is useful in the case of radio.

"Laughter is not the predominant note in the B.B.C.," says a writer, "but if a high official cracks a joke it soon spreads through the building." And everybody's face is Reithed in smiles!

We Learn by Experience!

A genial, plausible old ruffian was committed for fourteen days' hard labour for a violent assault on a police officer, while under the influence of methylated spirit. The members of the committee were convinced of his sincere remorse, and gave him, together with much excellent advice, a small sum of money with which to purchase a handcart.

On the day of his release he bought a fresh supply of methylated, assaulted another policeman, and returned the next day for a further fourteen days' hard labour.

At the end of his second term, the committee gave him no money, but rather dubiously, a new pair of shoes. He was hardly out of prison before he sold the shoes, purchased more spirit, found the necessary policeman, and was in prison again next day—this time for a month.

When, smiling and urbane as ever, he appeared at the end of his third term, he was presented with a railway ticket to London, and carefully seen into a non-stop train.—From "Justice of the Peace," by Leo Page.

ALL MANKIND'S CONCERN

Weekly Allowances

A young member aged 24 years is left with mother, brother, and sister dependent upon him owing to the death of his father. Member's grandparents also reside with them and their only income is £1 per week Old Age Pensions. The Benevolent and Orphan Fund is making a small weekly allowance in this case to supplement the income of the household until such time as the member's brother and sister, now aged 15 and 12 years respectively, are able to leave school and obtain employment.

A widow aged 51 years is left with six children to support on the sudden death of her husband. Her weekly income consists of the sums earned by two sons aged 24 and 20 years respectively. The fund is making a weekly grant in this case to help the family until their circumstances improve.

A widow aged 30 years was left practically destitute when her husband died after only three days' illness. She has a small daughter aged eight months, and her only income consists of widow's and orphan's pensions amounting to 15s. per week. The Benevolent and Orphan Fund is making a substantial weekly allowance to this widow.

A member aged 47 years is at present in hospital suffering from disease of the heart and there is no hope of his recovery. His wife, who is suffering from an incurable complaint, has recently been discharged from an Institution. They have a small son aged eight years. The Fund has agreed to be responsible for the maintenance and education of the child and is also making a weekly allowance in this very sad case.

Lump Sum Grants

A member aged 40 years finds himself in financial difficulties owing to the very serious illness of his small son, aged nine years, necessitating his instant removal to a nursing home. Member's wife has also been very ill, thus incurring further expenditure. The applicant's savings were depleted and member found it impossible to pay specialist's fee, etc., in connection with his son's illness. The Benevolent and Orphan Fund made a grant in this case towards the cost of the outstanding accounts.

A single member aged 30 years, with a widowed mother and sister dependent upon him, contracted tuberculosis and had to be removed to a sanatorium. He has now been absent from duty for a period of seven months and, although he received salary for six months, his savings have now been exhausted and debts are being incurred in connection with mortgage repayment, rates, doctors' bills, etc. The Benevolent and Orphan Fund has made a grant in this case towards payment of the outstanding debts.

This is the work of the Benevolent and Orphan Fund. Are you helping!

AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF
INTEREST TO YOU APPEARS
AT PAGE 90

What You Think

Our Readers' Opinions

Correspondence is invited, but the Editor cannot accept responsibility for the views expressed by correspondents. No letter will be published unless accompanied by the name and address of the sender, but a nom de plume may be sent for publication. The Editor wishes to devote space to all the letters which he receives for publication, but he cannot do this unless correspondents will make their letters "short and sweet." He reserves to himself the right to shorten letters, so as to publish more of all rather than much of a few.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICERS AND PARTY POLITICS

SIR,—I was extremely interested to read in the February issue the articles and your comments *re* Trade Unions and N.A.L.G.O. I do not agree with you that employees of all grades should conceal their views. If you had said not let them interfere with their efficiency or their zeal for the public interest, I should have agreed wholeheartedly.

Except in the case of those officials who, by the very nature of their position, have to give frank advice to committees, or who are in intimate contact with public representatives, the suppression of one's views is, in my opinion, a retrograde step. The standard of work performed, and the ability of the performer, should be the only concern of the authority, and personally I have faith in the wisdom of councillors of all creeds to observe this golden rule. I strongly deprecate the implication that an officer or employee who shows, and holds, pronounced views, more so if they are the result of intelligent study, is thus less able to give good service. Again I strongly resent the view held by many, that the opinions of an employee, if contrary to those of the authority, are likely to place one in a prejudiced position, or subject one to an unenviable "notoriety," or even spoil one's chances of promotion or improvement of pay and conditions.

This, if it were true (and I do not believe for one moment that it is), would be the very antithesis of that democracy whose strength and continuance in these troublous times I like to feel are the concern of trade unionists, members of N.A.L.G.O., and councillors of any and every or of no political creed.

Yours, etc.,

GEO. BROOKS.

March 15th, 1937.

To the Editor, LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

DEAR SIR,—It must be obvious that every thinking being has a political conscience, and this being so, each member of the service is either an idiot or has political leanings, and according to his political creed he is satisfied with things as they are or he desires to change them. If he is satisfied with things as they are he has no need to say anything; he can shelter behind the banner of "no politics," and if he does express satisfaction he is still strangely regarded as non-political. If he is not satisfied he must perforce line up on the side of the opposition, and then the dirty dog becomes "political."

Does it not strike the scribes responsible for the articles in the official journal that local government officers do sometimes think, do sometimes discuss politics, do sometimes exercise their right as rate and

income-tax payers to take part in local government and Parliamentary elections?

We are, etc.,

A FEW L.G.O.'s

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICER'S BUDGET

To the Editor, LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

SIR,—Your leading article is very outspoken when you say "the local government officer should apportion his expenditure so that he may look the world in the face and say 'I am free from debt.'"

Can your readers amplify this by giving suggestions for, particularly, the younger officer?

I have been struck by the number of hire-purchase advertisements in LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE, and it seems to me that if readers respond to these invitations they will not be free from debt! And N.A.L.G.O. seem to give hire purchase their blessing by getting out a special scheme for motor-car purchase.

A committee of investigation appointed by a society of salaried workers gave their budget for a family of 3.72 persons in the form of a list of items of expenditure totalling a minimum of £317 per annum. In this nothing was allowed for hire purchase and nothing for "education." Local Government officers whose children are accepted at a secondary school find that fees are compulsory!

There is something that has to be paid for in advance, and a very happy state of mind is assured in this case—that of the holiday at Croyde Bay or Cayton. One can act right up to the letter of your article and say "I am free from debt" as far as the holiday is concerned.

Yours, etc.,

NOTICK.

London, E.

THE APATHETIC MEMBER

To the Editor, LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

SIR,—"Just a Member" says "the branch is being run efficiently by the officers and my attendance is unnecessary." I think this statement is even more than apathetic. Local associations may be managed efficiently, but are they really working their hardest? Your correspondent further writes, "I am prepared to give serious consideration to any suggestions which might alter my present viewpoint." I should like to submit these:

Many clerks and officials have served years of efficient service but are still classed as "temporary," and benefits lost because of this. *Why not take this up?*

Many private firms these days grant their employees one Saturday off a month. Rolls are prepared and the clear day off is taken in turns. *Why not take this up?*

Many local government officials work a great deal of unpaid overtime. *Why not take this up?*

Many offices are without drinking utensils and no provisions are available to make a cup of tea when working late or on cold days. *Why not take this up?*

Those engaged in the great super-modern factories of our land have far better conditions and concessions than many local government employees experience, even though their offices look grand to the outside public.

Yours sincerely,

WIDE AWAKE.

FUTURE OF STATE EDUCATION

SIR,—All sane people, if they stop to think, will agree with me that education should really be to teach one the limits of everything, to think for oneself, to think with an open mind, the knowledge of all the best that has been thought and done in the world which is necessary for a balanced view to the future, and more so to make judgments that are impartial and are beneficial to mankind in general.

Education ceases far too young, and I advocate it to the age of 21.

The selection of teachers and their training is one of highest rank, and to my mind they are, or should be, the most important people of our time, for on them depends the results of those who follow in our footsteps.

Yours faithfully,

J. E. FUTURE.

National Council of Social Service (Incorporated)

New Secretary Appointed.

MR. LEONARD SHOETEN SACK, O.B.E., has been appointed General Secretary to the National Council of Social Service to succeed Captain L. F. Ellis, who was recently appointed Secretary to the National Advisory Council on Physical Education. Mr. Shoeten Sack, who is a barrister of the Middle Temple, was on the staff of the Ministry of Health from 1912 to 1921, when he was compelled to resign his position as a result of war disabilities. During the early months of the war he was seconded to the Staff of the National Relief Fund before proceeding on active service. Subsequently he served on the staff of the 2nd Division and was three times mentioned in despatches, awarded the O.B.E. (Military Division) and Croix de Guerra. On recovering from his war disabilities, he took up Social Service work and acted as Secretary to the Kent Rural Community Council and Kent Council of Social Service from 1925 until 1936, when he joined the Staff of the National Council of Social Service as Assistant Secretary in charge of the Rural Department. During 1933 he had been seconded to the National Council when the Council's work on behalf of the unemployed was being inaugurated. Mr. Sack's wide knowledge of the work of public authorities and voluntary movements and his experience of Social Service will ensure continuity in the work of the National Council.

Scottish Notes

WHEN the annual report of the Scottish District Committee is written about the beginning of December it is impossible to give an exact figure of our membership because there are always some of our branches a little behind time in making up their accounts for the year. We knew that there was a substantial increase in our Scottish membership, which we estimated at 500. Our estimate was very near the mark, for now that the actual figure, duly audited, is available we find that it is 523, which represents an increase of 10.2 per cent. This is very gratifying. Apart from numbers, it is probably true to say that the prestige of the Association never stood higher.

Kirkcaldy

On March 2 there was a very well attended meeting of the staffs and officials of Kirkcaldy Town Council. Mr. Ritchie, water engineer and president of Fife Branch, occupied the chair and the meeting was addressed by Mr. William Wilson, chief public assistance officer of Fife, Mr. L. B. Dymock, treasurer and collector of Fife, and the divisional secretary, who also answered a number of questions. The meeting was chiefly of a propagandist nature and is likely to be very fruitful in further augmenting the steadily growing membership of Fife Branch. Mr. J. H. McLusky, town clerk depute, received a special vote of thanks for making such satisfactory arrangements for the meeting.

Lanarkshire

The revised general grading scheme has now been completed and has been adopted by the county council. There can be no doubt that the revision of the scheme has brought about substantial improvements. The young men will now receive annual increments of £15 in place of £10 and will rise to £190 in place of having first to surmount salary bars at £100 and £150. On these questions the Association made strong representations, and it is gratifying that effect has now been given to them by the council. In future junior male officers will not be appointed to posts in a department where the approved stabilisation affords little chance of advancement on completion of the junior scale. To such posts it is proposed to appoint girls, since amongst them there is much more movement, a fair proportion leaving to get married, and so creating vacancies. Apart from this, about 90 per cent of the officials and staffs have been put on scales which give them several annual increments without having recourse to making individual applications. To those who have been unfortunate, comparatively few in number, in not receiving a higher maximum, we may point out that there is nothing final and absolute about the scheme and that it will still be open to them to make representations to the council when the annual review comes round.

Ayrshire

A very largely attended meeting of the staffs of the county council was held on March 1, when the principal business before the meeting was the consideration of a proposed grading scheme to be sub-

mitted to the county council. Drafts of a scheme had been circulated to each member with the notice calling the meeting. A long discussion ensued and it was finally agreed, with some slight alterations, to forward the scheme as drafted to the county clerk. Forty-one applications for membership were submitted and these were all approved.

Ardrossan

The divisional secretary has prepared a memorandum on the salaries of the Ardrossan staffs and sent it to the town clerk for the consideration of the council. Copies are also being sent to each member of the council.

Gourock

In Gourock also the salary question is to the fore, and here again the divisional secretary has prepared a memorandum and sent it to the town council for their consideration.

Glasgow

A motion which sought to make compulsory the residence of civic employees within the city boundaries was defeated by a large majority at a meeting of Glasgow Town Council on March 11.

It is interesting to note that the Glasgow Branch has offered 10 scholarships of £2 2s. each in connection with the summer school at St. Andrews. The school is increasing in popularity with the years.

The annual social evening was held on March 4. Collectors and representatives were again invited as guests of the branch. The guests of honour included the Lord Provost, the Senior Magistrate, Treasurer Dollan and Bailie Hood, convener of the Corporation Conditions of Service Committee. Dr. Macgregor (M.O.H.), president of the branch, presided. The entertainment offered was of the highest class, and (whisper it not on Applecross!) included a well-known city minister in the rôle of conjurer and illusionist. His "delivery" was highly appreciated. The Lord Provost, in a bright little speech, referred to the pleasure he received from attending informal gatherings such as the N.A.L.G.O. social. Treasurer Dollan made complimentary reference to the loyalty and efficiency of the corporation staffs, and to the valuable work which N.A.L.G.O. was doing throughout the country. A most enjoyable evening ended all too soon, but the committee in charge of the arrangements can feel well satisfied with the result of its labours.

The Good Old Times

"The funeral of Mr. Corbet, the late relieving officer of Greenwich, took place on Sunday morning last at the Parish Church, Greenwich, at 10 a.m. . . . A strong feeling of dislike against the deceased existed amongst the dissolute poor and a combination amongst them for the purpose of insulting his remains was supposed to exist. The time of the funeral had therefore been kept a secret; in fact, it had been purposely and industriously circulated that the interment took place on the preceding Thursday at four in the morning, which had the desired effect, as the mournful ceremony was performed without the slightest interruption."—*Extract from the "Kentish Mercury."*

On the Turntable

EACH month new records make it more and more evident that electrical recording no longer offers any serious problems. It is now of so high an order that one can be sure that, whatever is recorded, the result will be worthy of the original.

Particularly is this apparent in regard to orchestral records. The March H.M.V. list includes another dazzling example—Toscanini conducting the Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra of New York, in the Semiramide Overture by Rossini. Straightforward music and very popular with bands and small orchestras, but under Toscanini's conducting it becomes a front rank piece (H.M.V. DB3079-80). Delightful, too, is a new recording of Mozart's fragrant orchestral Serenade—"Eine kleine Nachtmusik." Literally "A little night music"; just the sort of thing one would imagine that 18th Century Court musicians played on summer evenings in the gardens of their patrons (H.M.V. DB3075-6). As a contrast, Stokowski and the Philadelphia Orchestra give a tremendous performance of Saint-Saens' Danse Macabre (Dance of Death). This is a re-recording of one of the most successful of the earlier electricals. If you have not yet heard it, and like exciting music, you will enjoy this vivid work, gruesome though the title may be (H.M.V. DB3077).

Artur Schnabel and his son, Karl Ulrich, with the London Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Sir Adrian Boult, give a distinguished performance of the Concerto in C for two pianos and orchestra, a more intimate affair than the modern concerto in which spotlight is trained almost consistently on the soloist. This is true Bach. Need any more be said? (H.M.V. DB3041-3).

On the other hand Pau Casals plays a Concerto proper. Boccherini's B Flat Major for Cello and Orchestra, also with the London Symphony Orchestra and conducted by another musical knight, Sir Landon Ronald (H.M.V. DB3056-8).

Then we leap forward to present times with a Rhapsody for saxophone and orchestra by Eric Coates, played by Sigurd Rascher with the Symphony Orchestra, accompanied by the composer. This is one of the few serious works for this (we say it advisedly) lovely instrument. It had its first performance at the Hastings Festival and was composed for Rascher. It is brief, occupying only two sides (H.M.V. C2891).

The light orchestral recordings include a selection from "On Your Toes," by Anton and the Paramount Theatre Orchestra, London, with Al Bollington at the organ (H.M.V. BD412), a selection from Bing Crosby's new film "Pennies from Heaven," by Louis Levy and his Gaumont British Symphony (H.M.V. BD409), and a very attractive Yiddische Wedding Fantasia played by Alfredo and his Orchestra (H.M.V. B8539).

Peter Yorke, a newcomer to these lists and a favourite broadcasting band leader, has recorded two of the best numbers from C. B. Cochran's Coronation Revue, "Home and Beauty." They are: "A Nice Cup of Tea" and "Love Me To-day" (H.M.V. BD5179); "The Changing of the Guard" and "Harbour Lights," two very catchy numbers, are played by Roy Fox and his Orchestra (H.M.V. BD5172).

YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED BY RADIO

Professor Hilton on November 19th, 1936, from the B.B.C. broadcast a warning. The warning was to the effect that while there are many really good and reliable Colleges teaching by correspondence, there are many others which are colleges by name only. He said some so-called colleges rented a couple of rooms in a large building in a well-known street. Some made great promises which they did not intend to fulfil. Some claimed successes they could not prove. In some cases the names of prominent men were quoted who were in no way connected with the working of the college.

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the brain, but the best thing to study, surely, is a course specially prepared to teach your own vocation, or prepare you for the examination which you have in view. Knowing that you are master of your job gives you self-confidence and personality, but a Diploma from a college is absolute proof of your efficiency. We have agencies in all English-speaking corners of the world. The nature of our business makes us keep in touch with employment requirements in all parts of the world, therefore we specialise in preparing students for the good positions which we know exist, and for all the worthwhile examinations.

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There is a tide in the affairs of man which, if taken at the flood, leads on to fortune and success. There are three things which come not back; the sped arrow, the spoken word, and the lost opportunity—this is your opportunity. If it is, your desire to make progress and establish yourself in a good career, write to us for free particulars on any subject which interests you, or if your career is not decided write and tell us of your likes and dislikes, and we will give you practical advice as to the possibilities of a vocation and how to succeed in it. You will be under no obligation whatever. It is our pleasure to help. We never take students for courses unless we feel satisfied they are suitable. Do not forget that success is not the prerogative of the brilliant. Our experience of over 30 years proves that the will to succeed achieves more than outstanding brilliancy.



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| Army Certificates | Municipal and County Engineers |
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| Aviation Engineering | Pattern Making |
| Banking | Police, Special Course |
| Book-keeping, Accountancy and Modern Business Methods | Preceptors, College of Pumps & Pumping Machinery |
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| Building, Architecture and Clerk of Works | Radio Communication |
| Cambridge Senior School Certificate | Road Making & Maintenance |
| Civil Engineering | Salesmanship I.S.M.A. |
| Civil Service | Sanitation |
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| Engineering. All branches, subjects and examinations | Shorthand (Pitman's) |
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| G.P.O. Eng. Dept. | Surveying |
| Heating and Ventilating | Teachers of Handicrafts |
| Industrial Chemistry | Telephony and Telegraphy |
| Insurance | Transport Inst. Exams. |
| Mathematics | Weights and Measures |
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| Works Managers | Welding |
| | Wireless Telegraphy and Telephony |

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Salaries and Service Conditions

Superannuation

THE following authorities have adopted the Local Government and Other Officers' Superannuation Act, 1922:

Clitheroe Borough, "Appointed Day," April 1, 1937.

Ince-in-Makerfield U.D.C., "Appointed Day," January 1, 1937.

Ulverston U.D.C., "Appointed Day," January 1, 1937.

Whitby Urban District Council has passed the first resolution, and it is anticipated the Appointed Day will be April 1, 1937.

Kidsgrove U.D.C. has agreed to obtain an actuarial report.

Salaries

AS a result of an application made by the North Riding Branch, the North Riding County Council has agreed to amend the rate of incremental progress in three grades by substituting annual increments of £12 10s. for £10 previously.

Resulting from an interview which the divisional secretary, accompanied by representatives of the National Association of Relieving Officers, had with the staffing sub-committee of the Durham County Council on October 26 last, the Council has agreed to increase the maximum salaries of relieving officers by £15 per annum.

The Middlesbrough Town Council has revised the scales of junior officers following an application made by the divisional secretary on behalf of the Branch. Increments of £15 have been substituted for the former increments of £10 per annum in the general grade, the maximum of which has also been increased by £10 per annum.

Successful negotiations have recently been concluded with the Blackburn Corporation for the re-establishment of the full Whitley Council scales and grading scheme which, a few years ago, were subjected by the Blackburn Corporation to an unwarranted and inequitable adjustment. The full scales are to come into operation on October 1, 1937.

Bolton

The public health committee of the Bolton Corporation at its last meeting passed the following resolution: "That as from April 1 next, the commencing salary for health visitors be fixed at £200 per annum, rising by annual increments of £10 to the salary of £230 per annum, with uniform."

As a result of an application from the Association the Wigan education committee, at its meeting on January 27, 1937, resolved that the salaries of school nurses should be raised from £200 to a maximum of £225 per annum, by two annual increments of £12 10s. This has since been confirmed by the council.

Following representations by the local branch of the Association, female officers in the transport department of Liverpool Corporation, including chief supervisors, deputy supervisors and second grade assistants, have been placed on the women's scales of the Lancashire and Cheshire Whitley Council. As a result, these employees will ultimately receive increases on the maximum varying from four shillings to nine shillings a week.

Following representations from the local branch, the North Wales Whitley Council made application to the Rhyl Council for the adoption of the North Wales Whitley Council scales, and supplied the Council with a model grading scheme. This scheme is now accepted and will be put into operation by the Council as from April 1, 1937.

Holidays

A SUB-COMMITTEE of the finance committee of the Darlington Corporation interviewed the divisional secretary in connection with an application submitted on behalf of the branch for extended annual holidays.

The Burnley Town Council at its March meeting decided to accede to the request made by the local branch of N.A.L.G.O. for the granting of Easter Monday as a holiday. This holiday had previously not been granted.

JANUARY EXAMINATION RESULTS

| INTERMEDIATE GRADE. | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| Candidate's No. | Name | Department | Authority |
| 1 | Alder, W. C. | Port Sanitary | Cardiff City C. |
| 3 | Allott, G. C. | Accountant's | Lindsey C.C. |
| 5 | Ball, J. A. | Clerk's | Essex C.C. |
| 9 | Blackburn, H. E. | Education | Middlesbrough C.B.C. |
| 11 | Boddy, C. | Electricity | York C.B.C. |
| 12 | Booth, H. F. | Clerk's | Billingham U.D.C. |
| 14 | Boys, F. G. E. | Clerk's | Hornsey B.C. |
| 17 | Burrows, W. R. | Clerk's | Leicestershire C.C. |
| 18 | Burton, J. F. | Surveyor's | Wilts C.C. |
| 19 | Buttfield, E. H. F. | Education | West Ham C.B.C. |
| 21 | Chapman, H. G. | Motor Taxation | Leicestershire C.C. |
| 23 | Cobbold, S. A. | Clerk's | Middlesbrough C.B.C. |
| 26 | Cornell, A. A. | Electricity | Aylesbury B.C. |
| 29 | Davey, L. R. | Collector's | Tees Valley Water Board |
| 31 | Davies, W. R. | School Medical | Carmarthenshire C.C. |
| 40 | Gooden, L. O. | Treasurer's | Hamphshire C.C. |
| 42 | Griggs, R. | Engineer's | West Ham C.B.C. |
| 43 | Harvey, K. S. | Clerk's | Knutsford U.D.C. |
| 45 | Humphrey, A. E. A. | Treasurer's | Barking B.C. |
| 50 | Lambeth, W. | Treasurer's | Tenterden R.D. |
| 51 | Lovell, A. H. | Town Clerk's | Exeter C.B.C. |
| 55 | Metcalf, R. G. | Town Clerk's | Southgate B.C. |
| 59 | Palmer, A. V. | Town Clerk's | Malden T.C. |
| 60 | Rallison, L. V. | Electricity | Willesden B.C. |
| 61 | Randall, M. F. G. | Public Health | Ilford B.C. |

| | | | |
|----|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 64 | Smerdon, B. J. | Clerk's | Carshalton U.D.C. |
| 66 | Smith, H. L. | Surveyor's | Reading C.B.C. |
| 68 | Thompson, B. | Education | York C.B.C. |
| 70 | Thornborow, T. R. | Collector's | Tees Valley Water Board |
| 71 | Thorpe, J. H. | Electricity | Willesden C.B.C. |
| 72 | Watson, K. | Clerk and Accountant's | Earby U.D.C. |
| 73 | Webb, L. H. | Education | Hendon B.C. |
| 75 | Williams, N. A. | Juvenile Employment | Ealing B.C. |
| 76 | Wooder, R. W. | Treasurer's | West Ham C.B.C. |

| FINAL GRADE. | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| Candidate's No. | Name | Department | Authority |
| 101 | Brame, W. | Education | Colne B.C. |
| 102 | Haywood, K. | Health | Willesden B.C. |
| 104 | Kerley, G. K. J. | Health | Willesden B.C. |
| 105 | McDonagh, J. J. | City | Glasgow Corporation |
| 106 | McFadden, J. | Rates | Belfast Corp. |
| 107 | Ramsay, J. | Public | Fife C.C. |
| 109 | Sanger, P. J. | Assistance | Willesden B.C. |
| 110 | Stevens, L. P. | Electricity | Barking B.C. |
| 111 | Stockley, J. | Education | Acton B.C. |
| 114 | Willcox, E. R. | Electricity | Willesden B.C. |

| SUMMARY OF RESULTS. | | | | |
|---------------------|--------|------------------------------|--------|-------|
| Grade | Passed | Referred in Certain Subjects | Failed | Total |
| Intermediate | 28 | 36 | | 70 |
| Final | 10 | 2 | 2 | 14 |

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Summer Schools, 1937

THE summer school movement is now accepted as one of the remarkable developments which have characterised the work of the Association. Successive summer schools have passed into memory, leaving the National Executive Council the more convinced that in providing facilities for the study of local government in all its aspects it is making a definite contribution to the development of a more efficient local government service.

The **Scottish summer school** will be held from July 3 to July 10 at St. Andrews University. Students will be accommodated in St. Salvator's Hall.

The school will be opened by the Lord Provost of Aberdeen. A full programme of lectures and after dinner talks, including lectures by Dr. W. A. Robson, of London University, is being arranged.

The **English summer school** will be held at Lincoln College, Oxford, from July 17 to July 24. The lectures at the school will deal with planning in local government. The lectures will be divided into three groups, consisting of three lectures in each group, and a seminar or discussion class will be held at the conclusion of each group of lectures. The following lectures will be delivered:

Group I. The Changing Structure of Local Government, by Dr. Herman Finer, Reader in Public Administration in the University of London.

Group II. The Theory and Practice of Planning, by Sir Gwilym Gibbon, ex-Principal Assistant Secretary to the Ministry of Health.

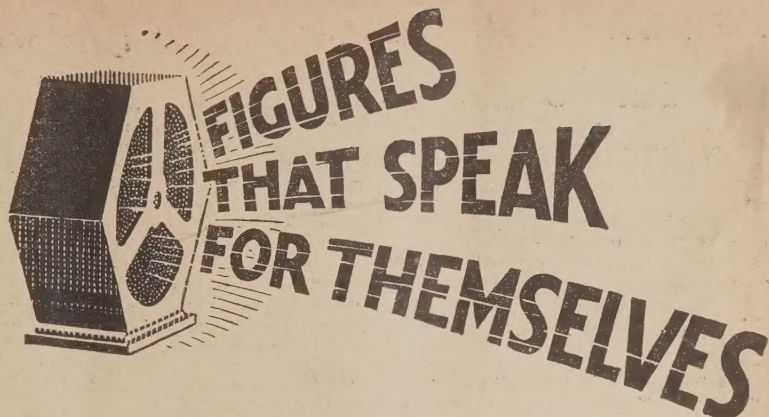
Group III. Planning Local Government from Within, by Mr. T. S. Simey, Lecturer in Public Administration at the University of Liverpool.

The charges for the school will be at the rate of 10s. 6d. per day.

The **Paris summer school**, which will be limited to thirty students, will be held at the Cité Universitaire, Paris, from July 3 to July 10. Professor Paul Vaucher, secretary of the Council of Social Research in the University of Paris, and Professor of Modern French History and Institutions in the University of London, will deliver five lectures dealing with the administration of the city of Paris, history and development of French public administration, French municipal government and centralisation, and present day problems in French public administration. In addition, lectures will be delivered by eminent administrators on public health in France, French poor law administration, French housing problems and the State system of education in France. Arrangements are being made for the students to visit various centres of public administration and local government institutions.

The probable cost for attending the Paris school, including travelling from London to Paris, return, accommodation for the week, attendance at lectures, visits, etc., will be £7.

As soon as arrangements for the summer schools are completed, the summer schools booklet will be issued to branches. Copies of the booklet and enrolment form may be obtained on application to headquarters or to the branch secretary.



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| " | " | " | Age 65 | 3 11 | 2 11 |
| " | " | " | " 60 | 4 2 | 3 1 |
| ENDOWMENT | | | | s. d. | s. d. |
| 20 Year Term | - | - | - | 8 5 | 6 11 |
| 25 " | " | - | - | 6 7 | 5 3 |
| 30 " | " | - | - | 5 5 | 4 2 |

N.A.L.G.O. Life Dept., 24 Abingdon Street,
Westminster, S.W.1.

National Executive Council Proceedings

THE meeting of the National Executive Council held on Saturday, March 13, at the Association's headquarters, 24, Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.1, being the final meeting of the Council before the annual conference, was naturally occupied for some considerable time with consideration of the annual report to be presented by the Council to the Margate assembly at Whitsuntide; the conference agenda, nominations for honorary officers and to a general review of its work during the past twelve months.

The chairman of the Council, Mr. W. W. Armitage, presided, and the following members of the Council were in attendance:—

Messrs. H. Allen
H. J. Altoun
A. G. M. Archibald
E. F. Bacon
J. T. Baker
W. A. N. Baker
A. G. Bolton
T. W. Bottomley
J. Brown
G. W. Coster
F. E. Cox
A. B. Day
G. S. Fraser
T. Freeman
A. A. Garrard
A. J. Gould
V. Grainger
F. W. Greenhalgh
D. L. Griffiths
F. H. Harrod
R. E. Heron
J. L. Holland
W. H. Legh-Smith
G. Llewellyn

Messrs. W. E. Lloyd
F. V. Merriman
C. J. Newman
T. Nolan
A. Denton Ogden
D. J. Parry
A. Pinches
E. L. Riley
C. A. W. Roberts
C. S. Robinson
J. W. Singleton
Miss I. Stansfield
Messrs. E. J. Stead
G. A. Stone
H. Taylor
J. W. Vince
J. H. Warren
W. H. Whinnerah
E. G. Whitney
J. W. Wilkinson
W. Wilson
Miss L. H. Wooldridge
Mr. L. Worden

A warm welcome was extended to Mr. W. H. Legh-Smith, the new honorary treasurer, who attended his first meeting of the Council.

The members stood in silent tribute to the memory of the late Sir Henry Jackson, Bart., M.P., whose tragic death has been a great blow to the Association.

By now the annual report and the conference agenda will be in the hands of delegates to the annual conference and of members of the branch executive committees. The agenda of the conference is reprinted in this issue of LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE and therefore it is not necessary to make any detailed references to the discussion of these matters.

Delegates to Sectional Societies' Conferences

MR. H. J. ALTOUN was appointed to represent the Association at the Jubilee Conference of the Sanitary Inspectors' Association which will be held at Brighton from August 30—September 4, 1937, and in response to a similar invitation from the Institute of Public Cleansing, Mr. W. A. N. Baker was appointed as N.A.L.G.O.'s representative to the 39th annual conference of that body to be held at Margate from June 14-18, 1937. Another invitation to N.A.L.G.O. to be represented at the annual conference of a sectional and professional society was one submitted from the Incorporated Association of Rating and Valuation Officers, and the Council asked Mr. J. T. Baker to act as its representative at the 55th annual meeting and conference of that association which will be held at London on April 23-24, 1937.

Rapprochement with Ancillaries

THE Council has recently appointed a Future Policy Committee to consider trends which seem likely to develop in the organization and government of the Association and in which it was felt desirable that points should

be decided upon in relation to the future policy of the Association.

The first report of the committee was submitted to the Council by its chairman, Mr. C. J. Newman, who said that the first problem which had been considered was the relationship between the Association and the ancillary activities. The Future Policy Committee submitted certain recommendations in order to ensure a closer liaison between the Council and the management committees of the ancillaries and to promote the best interests of the Association and the sectional activities. These recommendations, which were approved by the Council, are:

(a) That the National Executive Council be requested to amend the rules and constitution of the Association to provide that the chairman of each of the management committees of the ancillaries of the Association who has not secured election to the National Executive Council either as an honorary officer or as a district representative shall be *ex-officio* a member of the Council during the period of his chairmanship;

(b) That the ancillaries be requested, with a view of securing a closer contact with the National Executive Council, to amend their rules to provide that fifty per cent of the members of their management Committees shall be nominated by the Council from amongst its members;

(c) That the ancillaries be requested to honour the same rule as operates in the National Executive Council that members, on leaving the service, shall not be eligible for membership of the management committees; in other words, that no one should be eligible for membership of those committees who is not eligible for membership of the National Executive Council;

(d) That the nomination of the representatives of the National Executive Council on the management committees of the ancillaries should take place annually in future;

(e) That nothing in the foregoing recommendations, if adopted, be permitted adversely to affect the rights of existing members of the Board of Management of Logomia who were members of the Board on April 1, 1930.

The Council was pleased to learn that the Association had been allotted one hundred seats in the stands on the route of the Coronation procession, and an undertaking was given to allocate the tickets and to be responsible for the collection of the money.

Proposals for New Organization

THE report of the Service Conditions and Organization Committee introduced by the chairman, Mr. J. W. Wilkinson, was one of the longest that this committee has yet submitted to the National Executive Council, and it showed a wide range of subjects all closely affecting the service conditions of local government officers.

On the question of the organization of public utility officers, the committee referred the question to the Future Policy Committee, and a comprehensive report will be prepared in due course.

Air-Raid Precautions

THE subject of air-raid precautions was discussed by the committee, which learned that a conference is to be called as a result of a joint meeting representing a number of peace and professional organizations in public offices, which was convened by the County Hall Branch of the League of Nations Union with the co-operation of the London Regional Federation of the Union. It was also learned that the Trades Union Congress General Council was also convening a meeting of interested unions on the same subject, and both these bodies invited N.A.L.G.O. to send representatives to those unions. The Council concurred in the suggestion of the committee that the organizing secretary be appointed to attend the meeting convened by the T.U.C. General Council.

Mechanization in Offices

A CONFERENCE on mechanization in offices, convened by the Joint Consultative Council and the Women's Employment Confederation, was held on Thursday, December 17, 1936; the committee stated that about two hundred people were present, representing professional organizations including N.A.L.G.O., business firms, educational institutions and so on.

The following resolutions passed at that conference were endorsed by the committee and adopted by the Council:

That the staff employed on office machine work should be paid on a recognised scale, which should reach a rate at

"HOUSE- OWNERSHIP"

an ideal to be realised

Spring and early Summer is always a period of great activity in the selection and purchase of houses.

Many members of N.A.L.G.O. will take advantage of the facilities for house-purchase which are offered (to Local Government Officers only) by the Nalgo Building Society.

Decide to buy your house this year. It is cheaper than renting, through

YOUR OWN SOCIETY.



4 $\frac{1}{4}$ % for an advance of up to two-thirds of the value.

4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % for an advance of up to 90% of the value.

(100% advanced in approved cases.)

**To N.A.L.G.O.,
24, Abingdon Street,
Westminster, S.W.1**

Send particulars of the Nalgo Building Society (House Purchase) to:

Name

Address

Post in open envelope 1d. stamp.

4

**NALGO BUILDING SOCIETY,
24, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.1**

WE DON'T WANT TO BORE YOU—

but we think you ought to know

THE B. & O. FUND during 1936

RECEIVED

£15,565-0-8

SPENT

£14,771-12-4

THE MARGIN IS SMALL

*Send Donations to your Branch Secretaries To-day, and Help to
Break all Previous Records at the*

MARGATE CONFERENCE PURSE SESSION

"Oh, to be in England"

Yes, no doubt April has its compensations, although the weather experts maintain that for variations in climate it is supreme.

Every precaution should be taken to keep fit during this month. It is very necessary to safeguard your health by becoming a member of the Nalgo Provident Society.

In this way, if you are ill, the extra expense will not inflate your personal expenditure, but will be met by the sickness benefit due to you. This brings peace of mind, and extra nourishment essential to a quick recovery.

The Local Correspondent of your branch will gladly show you how the scheme operates or your enquiries will be welcomed by the

| MONTHLY Contribution | | WEEKLY Benefit |
|-------------------------|----------|-------------------|
| s. d. | | s. d. |
| 1 0 | provides | 7 0 |
| 2 0 | " | 14 0 |
| 3 0 | " | 21 0 |
| 4 0 | " | 28 0 |
| 5 0 | " | 35 0 |
| 6 0 | " | 42 0 |
| 7 0 | " | 49 0 |
| 8 0 | " | 56 0 |
| 9 0 | " | 63 0 |

Nalgo Provident Society
24, Abingdon Street,
London, S.W.1

Please send particulars
of the above sickness
scheme to :—

.....
Mr. Mrs. or Miss
.....

.....
Post in open envelope.
3d. stamp.
.....

Nalgo Provident Society

Telephone: WHitehall 9351

24, Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.1

which they should be fully self-supporting, and that there should be genuine opportunities for promotion above that rate, not only to supervisory posts but to other positions in the organization ;.

That the staff employed on office machines should be employed on this work for part of the time only, with such rotation of duties as will enable them to become conversant with other work also ;

That working conditions in offices where mechanised methods are used should be such as to avoid strain, and should provide official rest pauses during machine work, good light, adequate ventilation, ample space, specialised seating, scientific arrangement of duties, adequate holidays, and so far as possible noise should be eliminated by sound-deadening apparatus.

Progress of Conciliation Machinery

THE subject of Whitleyism was again well to the fore, and the committee had considered a draft bill which it is proposed to introduce into the House of Commons at the first appropriate opportunity, to make compulsory the setting up of Whitley Councils to cover those areas of the country where such councils have not been voluntarily constituted.

The committee also stated that a conference of representatives of local authorities and officers in the Isle of Wight was held on Thursday, February 4, 1937, to consider the desirability of establishing a Whitley Council for the administrative, clerical, professional and technical services in the island. At that meeting the following resolution was carried without a dissentient :

That after close and full consideration this conference of representatives of local authorities in the Isle of Wight and their officers ask the local authorities concerned favourably to consider the establishment of a joint (Whitley) council for the administrative, clerical, professional and technical services in the Isle of Wight.

This resolution has been circulated to the clerk of each council in the island with a request that it will be submitted to the next meeting of the council, and it is hoped that a further conference will be held early in April.

Representatives from the National Executive Council met the executive committee of the South Wales and Monmouthshire District Committee on February 13, 1937, when a frank discussion took place on the position generally in South Wales. The question of the methods to be adopted for the purpose of establishing a Whitley Council for the area were carefully examined, and after due consideration the executive committee unanimously resolved to recommend to the district committee the following :

(a) That immediate steps be taken to establish a Provincial Whitley Council for South Wales and Monmouthshire ;

(b) That the staff side of the National Whitley Council be requested to convene a meeting in Cardiff of representatives of organizations affiliated to the National Whitley Council who have members in South Wales, to consider the establishment of a provincial council ;

(c) That it be suggested to the meeting of representatives of organizations that the employers' side of the National Whitley Council should request the Lord Mayor of Cardiff to call a conference of local authorities in South Wales, when members of the employers' side would be present, to consider the establishment of a provincial council.

It was reported that the South Wales District Committee have approved the recommendations.

University Graduates

RECENTLY the attention of the Association was drawn to the fact that a memorandum dated October 3, 1936, had been issued by the Oxford University Appointments Committee, stating that the town clerk of an important county borough had a vacancy for a junior assistant solicitor in his office, that the salary would be in the neighbourhood of £150-£200 per annum, and that after eighteen months, or two years' experience the candidate should be able to obtain a much better post.

On December 31, 1936, a communication was sent to the secretary of the Oxford University Appointments Committee pointing out the circumstances of this case and expressing the hope that the Appointments Committee would not countenance as a general rule the derogation of the local government service in the manner indicated by the recent appointment.

After further correspondence, the deputy chairman replied that he entirely concurred with the view put forward, and said that

the Appointments Committee of the Oxford University would be very glad to avail itself of an opportunity of discussing with N.A.L.G.O. this particular problem.

The Service Conditions and Organization Committee decided that the chairman and vice-chairman of this Committee together with the chairman of the Education Committee be deputed to interview representatives of the Oxford University Appointments Committee.

Re-arrangement of Divisional Secretaries' Areas

THE committee also reported that it has given very close consideration to the position which has been created by the rapid growth of N.A.L.G.O. during recent years. This growth has necessitated an increased and increasing pressure of work on the divisional staff, and consequently the committee recommended that as temporary measure assistance be provided from headquarters for the divisional secretary for the Midlands and South Wales districts. The committee also recommended, and the National Executive Council concurred, that it should be empowered to consider the areas of district committees and to report thereon with recommendations to a future meeting of the Council.

Institutional and Nursing Staffs

A REPORT was presented to the committee on the salaries and hours of work of nursing and institutional staffs.

This subject is arousing considerable public interest and sympathy, and there is no doubt an awakening public consciousness that improvements will have to be effected. It was agreed that the general secretary be authorised to take into consultation such experienced persons as may be deemed necessary, with a view of framing a Public Health Officers' Charter for conditions of service generally, and that a report be presented to a future meeting of the committee.

Legal Assistance

THE Law and Parliamentary Committee reported, through Mr. P. H. Harrold, that since its meeting held on December 18, 1936, 176 cases of legal advice and assistance had been dealt with at headquarters, in addition to which it submitted details of 21 cases which required special consideration.

Registration of Architects

THE Architects' Registration Bill was introduced in the House of Lords on January 26, 1937. Under the Architects (Registration) Act, 1931 (section 10), a person is not to practise under any name, title or style, containing the words "Registered Architect," unless he is registered under the provisions of that Act, "and any unregistered person who so practises or wilfully pretends to be a registered person, or takes or uses the name or title of a Registered Architect or any name, title, style or description implying that he is a registered person, shall on summary conviction be liable to a fine not exceeding fifty pounds for the first offence and one hundred pounds for every subsequent offence."

The effect of the Bill would appear to be that any person who is not a registered person within the meaning of the Act of 1931 and who, after the expiration of two years from the passing of the Bill takes or uses the name, style or title of "Architect" or any name, style or title containing the word "Architect" shall be deemed to have committed an offence under section 10 of the Act of 1931, and the provisions of that section will apply accordingly.

As a result of inquiries made by the Association information was obtained from which it would appear that a considerable number of members might be affected by the Bill, and that there was a considerable difference of opinion amongst those members as to whether the provisions of the Bill were desirable.

When the Bill was read a second time in the House of Lords, the Marquess of Dufferin and Ava, on behalf of the Government, said, in the course of the debate, that the subject matter of the Bill was of a controversial character, and that the view had been expressed that it had not been sufficiently ventilated in public, and he intimated that the Government would not be able to promise, at that stage, any facilities for it in the House of Commons. In the circumstances, it seems doubtful whether, when the Bill has been passed by the House of Lords, it will make any substantial progress in the House of Commons. It was, however, thought desirable that the Association's Parliamentary Agent should, on behalf of the Association, address a letter to the Ministry of Health on these points.

This letter was sent on February 11, 1937, and a copy of it was forwarded to the Marquess of Dufferin and Ava at the same time.

Factories Bill

AN inquiry was received from the secretary of the Stockport Branch as to whether the Association intended to endeavour to get provisions inserted in this Bill, which was introduced by the Home Secretary on January 29, 1937, with the object of obtaining satisfactory office accommodation for municipal office workers, in particular sufficient cubic capacity per worker.

A reply has been sent to the branch secretary as follows:

This Bill relates to "factories" as defined in Clause 144, "factory" being defined as meaning premises in which, or within the close or curtilage or precincts of which, any person is employed in manual labour in the processes referred to in the Clause. This definition would clearly exclude premises which are used for the purpose of office accommodation, and not included in a "factory."

Furthermore, the title of the Bill is confined to the consolidation, with amendments, of the Factory and Workshops Acts, 1901 to 1929, and other enactments relating to factories, and a proposal to extend the provisions of the Bill, or any of them, to office accommodation would be outside the scope of the Bill for the purpose of the Standing Orders of the House.

In the circumstances, it would be useless to take any steps in the hope of getting a Clause introduced into the Bill dealing with office accommodation for municipal office workers.

Compensation

SINCE the meeting of the committee held on December 18, 1936, two compensation appeals have been decided upon, and they have totalled an increase of £136 in the amount of compensation awarded against that originally granted by the compensating authority.

Diplomas in Public Administration

THE Education Committee stated that a deputation had waited upon representatives of Cambridge University on January 19, 1937, when the possibility of the establishment of a diploma in public administration was discussed. The subject is now being considered by the Extra Mural Board.

It was reported that the University College of the South-West had now drawn up a scheme for a course for a diploma in public administration at that college, and that it was hoped, subject to financial considerations, to establish a course.

There has been some difficulty in connection with the examination qualifications for students who wish to study for the external diploma in public administration awarded by London University. Negotiations, reported the committee, have recently been proceeding, as a result of which the external registrar of London University intimated that this difficulty might be overcome if a similar diploma were established under the jurisdiction of the London University Extension Lectures Committee. The Education Committee decided to defer consideration of this matter pending further developments in connection with the general question of the matriculation qualification.

Week-end Schools and Lectures

THE work of area education committees is beginning to have a good effect, and the Education Committee was able to report to the Council that

(a) The Eastern District area education committee, working through the Group 3 education committee, has organized a week-end school at Cambridge for March 20 and 21. Lectures will be delivered on those dates by Professor Ernest Barker on the "Relationship of the Local Community to the Local Authority," and by the general secretary on "The Local Government Officer and the Ratepayer."

(b) The Yorkshire area education committee has arranged a week-end school at Bingley Training College on Saturday and Sunday, April 17 and 18. Two lectures will be delivered by Mr. A. N. Shimmin, M.A., Lecturer in Economics and Director of Studies for the Diploma in Social Organization at the University of Leeds. The lectures will be on "Trends in Public Administration" and "The Effect of Economic Changes on Local Authorities."

(c) The North-Western District, working through the secretary of the Manchester area education committee, is organizing a week-end school at Culcheth Hall, Warrington, to be held on April 24 and 25.

(d) The East Suffolk and Ipswich branches have organized a course of six lectures in local government and public administration under the style of "An Introduction to the

Study of Local Government." The lectures are being delivered by Mrs. C. D. Rackham, Fellow and Associate of Newnham College, Cambridge.

The number of students who have enrolled for courses provided by the Nalگو Correspondence Institute for the months of January and February, 1937, was 115 as against 112 for the comparable period of 1936.

Public Relations

MR. J. L. HOLLAND, in submitting the report of the Publications and Public Relations Committee, stated that as part of the celebrations of the centenary of local government the "Shields Gazette" published a special article, composed with the assistance of the borough treasurer of South Shields, explaining the income and expenditure of the county borough council. When this analysis appeared it became so popular that the editor reprinted it as a separate document and circulated it throughout the town. On January 1, 1937, a similar analysis for the year 1936 appeared in this paper, and again has been reprinted and has received a wide circulation throughout the county borough. It is more than probable that this will now be a regular annual feature of the "Shields Gazette."

The committee also reported that in response to a suggestion which had been received from the secretary of the National Book Council, it had decided that N.A.L.G.O. should prepare a book list on local government and should be responsible for the maintenance of that list as an up-to-date work of reference to all the literature issued in connection with this subject.

Death Benefit Scheme

THE Finance and General Purposes Committee, whose report was submitted by Mr. A. G. M. Archibald, stated that it had appointed Mr. C. A. W. Roberts to attend the congress of the International Hospital Association which will be held in Paris from July 5-11, 1937.

The committee also reported that 204 branches had submitted their observations on the proposed death benefit scheme, a report of which had been circulated to them. Those replies show that the majority of the branches were strongly opposed to the adoption of a scheme of the character outlined in the report of the National Executive Council, and the committee decided that conference should be recommended not to take any further action in connection therewith.

Educational Tour

MR. J. W. SINGLETON submitted the report of the Special Activities Committee which dealt chiefly with matters relating to the administration of the holiday centres, and full details of the reconstruction of Croyde Bay Holiday Centre were also submitted.

Mr. Singleton reported that 76 bookings had been received for the educational tour to Canada and America which commences on July 30, 1937, and a tentative programme was approved by the committee, subject, of course, to any alterations which might be necessitated by local requirements.

All Mankind's Concern

MR. H. S. NEWTON stated that the Benevolent and Orphan Fund Management Committee had approved weekly allowances in 322 cases, and that on the basis of those allowances the annual expenditure exceeded £15,000. Lump sum grants of over £300 have been granted in 23 cases and loans totalling over £800 have been made in 41 cases.

The committee reported that a sum of just over £1,000 had been received from the "Help Yourself Society" in respect of the sale of annuals for 1936, and consideration is to be given to the question of disposing of this sum.

Since the December meeting of the committee 107 life members had been enrolled, making a total number of 7,871 since the inception of the fund.

Ancillaries' Progress

MR. W. H. WHINNERAH reported that at February 25, 1937, there were 16,761 members of the sickness scheme, 1,174 members of the death benefit scheme, and 4,880 persons insured under the hospital and nursing home scheme.

Mr. J. T. Baker, in submitting the proceedings of the Nalگو Building Society Committee of Management, stated that there were now 16,435 members for paid up and partly paid shares and just over 3,000 depositors in the society. He also stated that since the meeting of the committee held towards the end of December, 1936, £147,104 had been authorised to members who wished to raise mortgages on their property. Progress reports were also submitted by Logomia and the Nalگو Approved Society.

With the Area Education Committees

North-Western District — Week-end School

A WEEK-END school, to be held on April 24 and 25, 1937, at Culcheth Hall, near Warrington, has been organized under the auspices of the joint committee of the Liverpool and Manchester area education committees.

The school will be opened by Mr. C. A. W. Roberts, M.B.E., the vice-chairman of the education committee of the National Executive Council.

The course will include the following lectures, and discussions will be arranged at the conclusion of each lecture:

1. "As Others See You," by Alderman S. C. Hills, of Birkenhead.

The chair will be taken by C. A. W. Roberts, Esq., M.B.E.

2. "Present Day Problems in Local Government," by G. G. Thomson, Esq., M.A., Assistant Lecturer, Department of Social Science, University of Liverpool.

The chair will be taken by Alderman W. S. Mycock, J.P., chairman of the Swinton and Pendlebury education committee.

A debate will be arranged by the members of the Liverpool D.P.A. Society of the Manchester Group for Research in Administration and Sociology, under the chairmanship of D. N. Chester, Esq., M.A. (Admin.), Lecturer in Public Administration, University of Manchester.

Ipswich and East Suffolk Branches— Local Government Lectures

The Ipswich and East Suffolk branches have organized a series of six lectures on an introduction to the study of local government. Lectures have been delivered on Tuesdays during the past six weeks by Mrs. C. D. Rackham, J.P., Fellow and Associate of Newnham College, Cambridge, and a member of the Cambridgeshire County and Cambridge Borough Councils, and chairman of the Eastern District of the Workers' Educational Association. Mrs. Rackham was a member of the Royal Commission on Unemployment Insurance, 1930 and 1932, and has held other offices closely connected with local government.

The attendance at the lectures has been consistently high. The lectures were organized in conjunction with the W.E.A., and those responsible must feel highly gratified at the fruitful result of their efforts.

The lectures dealt with the following points:

1. (a) The Structure of English Local Government.

(b) The place of the elected representative.

(c) The problem of areas.

2. (a) The Rating System.

(b) The relation of central and local government in finance and administration.

3. The sphere of the local authorities in relation to a minimum standard of life.

4. (a) The people's schools.

(b) The place of the Public Library in Education.

5. The police and public safety.

6. Next steps in municipal enterprise.

N.A.L.G.O. HOLIDAYS

special
spring
features

WHITSUN

CROYDE BAY HOLIDAY CENTRE will re-open at Whitsun. It will contain new bungalows throughout, well-constructed and finely equipped. Be amongst the first to experience the improvements—Book for Whitsun, 8/- per day.

CAYTON BAY HOLIDAY CENTRE, 8/- per day.

CEFN-Y-MYNACH PRIVATE HOTEL, College Avenue, Rhos-on-Sea, North Wales, 9/6 per day—write direct.

APRIL AND MAY

RETIRED MEMBERS are offered special terms at Croyde Bay and Cayton Bay, during April and May, each year at £2 per week—other visitors £2 7s. 0d. per week.

SPECIAL WINTER TERMS at Cefn-y-Mynach Private Hotel, College Ave., Rhos-on-Sea, North Wales, 7/- per day (except Whitsun). Bookings accepted by the Resident Manageress.

summer
holiday
programme

EDUCATIONAL TOUR

This Tour offers unique facilities for insight into the municipal administration of several large Canadian cities, — Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto; NEW YORK and Niagara will also be visited. Sailing July 30th, 1937, for one month approximate cost, from £75.

SWISS HOLIDAYS

A holiday in glorious Switzerland at inclusive fees within the reach of all. Free passes for mountain railways, lake steamers, casinos, lidos, cinemas, free afternoon tea, life and luggage insurance, etc. Lugano, Lucerne and Bernese Oberland. From £9 12s. 0d. for 9 days; £13 10s. 6d. for 16 days.

CARGO BOAT HOLIDAYS

Why not a "different" holiday this year? Clean sea breezes—no formality—good food—unique experiences—inexpensive.

N.A.L.G.O., SPECIAL ACTIVITIES DEPARTMENT
24, Abingdon Street, S.W.1

I require booking form for

1. Cefn-y-Mynach Private Hotel
2. Croyde or Cayton (Spring period)

I am interested in:

1. Educational Tour
2. Swiss Holidays
3. Cargo Boat Holidays.

(delete where not required—post in open envelope—1d. stamp).

Name

Address

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICERS

HEADQUARTERS:

24, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.1.

ALL HEADQUARTERS COMMUNICATIONS should be addressed to the General Secretary and endorsed with the appropriate subject, e.g., "Legal," "Insurance," "Finance," "Organization," "Education," or "Special Activities."

Telephone: WHItchall 9351 (6 lines).

Telegrams: Natassoc Parl. London.

NOMINATIONS FOR HONORARY OFFICERS

The following nominations for honorary officers of the Association for the year 1937-38 have been made by the District Committees:

President: Mr. W. W. Armitage.

Two vice-presidents: Mr. D. L. Griffiths, O.B.E., Mr. J. L. Holland, Mr. H. Royle and Mr. E. J. Stead.

Three trustees: Mr. A. G. M. Archibald, Mr. J. T. Baker, Mr. T. Freeman and Mr. S. Lord.

Hon. treasurer: Mr. W. H. Legh-Smith.

Hon. solicitor for England: Mr. P. H. Harrold.

Hon. solicitor for Wales: Mr. D. J. Parry.

Hon. solicitor for Scotland: Mr. G. S. Fraser.

The National Executive Council at its meeting on March 13 made the following nominations:

President: Mr. W. W. Armitage.

Two vice-presidents: Mr. J. L. Holland and Mr. E. J. Stead.

Three trustees: Mr. A. G. M. Archibald, Mr. T. Freeman, and Mr. S. Lord.

Hon. treasurer: Mr. W. H. Legh-Smith.

Hon. solicitor for England: Mr. P. H. Harrold.

Hon. solicitor for Wales: Mr. D. J. Parry.

Hon. solicitor for Scotland: Mr. G. S. Fraser.

MARGATE CONFERENCE

Dates to Remember

APRIL 15. Amendments to motions in Conference agenda to be received at headquarters by 5 p.m.

Voting papers for N.E.C. to be in hands of branch secretaries.

APRIL 17. Voting papers for honorary officers to be in hands of branch secretaries.

Voting papers for venue of Annual Conference to be in hands of branch secretaries.

APRIL 23. Voting papers for N.E.C. to be in hands of members.

MAY 1. Voting papers to be in hands of secretary of district committee.

Journal will contain amendments to motions in Conference agenda. Conference agenda (containing motions and amendments thereto) and

list of representatives to be forwarded to representatives.

Branches desiring to divide voting strength at Conference to notify headquarters of allocation.

Voting papers for honorary officers to be returned to headquarters.

Voting papers for venue of Conference to be returned to headquarters.

MAY 2.—Counting of votes for N.E.C. commences in each district.

MAY 15.—Whit Saturday. First day of Conference proceedings.

MAY 17. Whit Monday (Bank Holiday). Second day of Conference proceedings.

COST OF LIVING

Below we give the average monthly percentage increase over the level of July, 1914, in the cost-of-living index for the past six months: October, 48; November, 51; December, 51; January, 51; February, 51; March, 51. The percentage increases in each of the five groups on which the index figure is based are as follow:

| | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. |
|----------------|------|------|------|
| Food | 36 | 35 | 35 |
| Rent | 59 | 59 | 59 |
| Clothing .. | 95 | 95 | 95 |
| Fuel and Light | 80 | 80 | 80 |
| Other Items .. | 70 | 75 | 75 |

IMPORTANT DATE

APRIL 30.—Second quarterly return of alterations in Register of Membership.

HEADQUARTERS AND BRANCHES

The following circulars have been remitted to branch officers:

FEBRUARY 25

21/LOG/37

(To each Logomia local correspondent.)

Enclosing a life assurance circular and setting out a form for requisitioning additional copies for circulation among the members of the branch.

MARCH 8

22/NPS/37

(To each Provident Society local correspondent.)

(a) Requesting that pass books be forwarded to headquarters for audit.

(b) Asking for confirmation of Association membership in respect of each member.

(c) Asking for a list of those members of the Provident Society who are also members of Logomia.

(d) Stating that after audit the pass books will be returned direct to the members and asking for correct addresses to be noted in those pass books.

SIR ARTHUR ROBINSON PRIZE ESSAY COMPETITION

Sir Arthur Robinson, C.C.B., C.B.E., formerly Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health, now Chairman of the Supply Board, has intimated his desire to continue his association with the Summer Schools, and has offered prizes of the value of five guineas to be competed for in an essay competition. The competition is open to members of N.A.L.G.O. in England and Wales, and will be divided into two classes:

Class I. For officers whose salary is £250 per annum or more; value of prize three guineas.

Class II. For officers whose salary is less than £250 per annum; value of prize two guineas.

The subjects from which the candidates may choose are the same for both classes, viz:

1. Set out your views as to the most probable lines of the future development of local government in this country in regard to (i) areas of local government; (ii) division of powers between the various types of local authority and between local authorities as a whole and the State.

2. Set out your views on the published "Report on Result of investigation under Section 110 of the Local Government Act 1929 (England and Wales)"—its advantages and its defects and possible amendments to it—the standpoint adopted to be the public interest and not the interest of the local treasury.

Rules of the Competition

1. The competition is open to all members of N.A.L.G.O. in England and Wales.

2. The essay may be in manuscript, type-written, or printed.

3. No stipulation is made as to length.

4. The final selection by Sir Arthur Robinson must be taken as conclusive.

5. Essays must reach the General Secretary, N.A.L.G.O., 24, Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.1, on or before June 7, 1937.

6. Each essay must be headed with the title chosen, a nom de plume, and a note of whether the competitor desires his essay to be judged in Class I or Class II. A scaled envelope containing the author's name, address, position, and branch, and bearing on the outside his nom de plume and class, must accompany the essay. Indication of the author's identity should not appear on the essay.

7. The result of the competition will be announced prior to June 17, 1937.

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE

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Margate

IN six weeks' time over 1,000 delegates will assemble in Margate to discuss and pass judgment on the stewardship of those who have been entrusted with the administration of the N.A.L.G.O. during the past year; to express their views on such questions upon which the Council desires to receive instructions; to alter the constitution which in the light of experience has been found necessary; and generally to settle the policy of the Association for another year.

This will be the thirty-first annual general meeting and the report which the Council has submitted to the branches is just one sequence of record-breaking statistics and progress. The membership is rapidly approaching the one hundred thousand—a figure which seemed to be a dream only a few years ago.

The average subscription remains about the same from year to year, somewhere in the neighbourhood of 15s., and that represents the simple trade union contribution. It is fairly common practice in the trade union world to make the weekly or monthly contribution an inclusive charge to cover certain cash benefits, but whilst there are many such benefits within N.A.L.G.O.'s scheme of organization, these are all on a voluntary basis designed to provide as wide a range of choice as possible.

Important Responsibility

Just a glance at the report on the legal and parliamentary work will show how thorough is the attention paid to this very important part of the Association's responsibility. Every Parliamentary Bill has been carefully scrutinised and where action has been deemed to be necessary it has been taken. The general legal questions submitted by members for opinion, and in some cases action, have reached a total of nearly 700, or an average of over two per day. When we remember that in the majority of these cases a considerable amount of correspondence is involved, some idea of the magnitude of this work can be obtained. It is very seldom that a case is limited to the simple action of submitting a question and receiving an answer; cases often demand interviews and counsel's opinions.

A New Lease of Life

There has been a fairly general and widespread improvement in service

conditions. A considerable number of new salary scales have been negotiated, and in this connection Whitleyism has played a part. On this score alone the progress made during the past year is extremely encouraging. The development of Whitleyism seems to have taken a new lease of life since the Conference decided that Whitleyism should be sponsored by N.A.L.G.O.

There are a number of interesting notices of motion on the agenda, and Margate should provide ample facilities for exercising that high standard of debating power which is so often the outstanding feature of a N.A.L.G.O. Conference.

Infusing New Enthusiasm

The most important domestic issue which requires the endorsement of conference is the reconstitution of the Benevolent and Orphan Fund. It was very definitely decided at the last annual conference that a change in the method of controlling the Fund was necessary, and the National Executive Council has endeavoured to interpret the wishes of the majority of the members. The new scheme will undoubtedly put greater responsibilities on the district committees, but no one has any doubt that they will be equal to it—in fact it will bring the handling of the cases much nearer home, and no one can fail to respond to the appeals for support when they experience at close quarters what a wonderful work is being done. The change which the new scheme envisages is not the result of any serious

dissatisfaction with the old method, but an attempt to infuse a new enthusiasm for responsibility and to co-ordinate some of that responsibility within the controlling authority of the National Executive Council.

Apex of the Wedge

Effective organization must conform to laws. In N.A.L.G.O., as in all similar movements, the base of interest must be as wide as possible, a base covering not only as many persons as possible, but such a variety of activities as the various tastes of the members need to keep their interest. From the base the forces of innumerable activities must gradually narrow until they are concentrated in the hands of the National Executive Council which will then represent the penetrating power of the apex of a wedge. The spear-head, the chisel, the snow plough, the flight of wild geese, are simple demonstrations of this elementary principle, and N.A.L.G.O. cannot ignore it. That is undoubtedly the objective of that very interesting report of the future policy committee, whose preliminary recommendations appear in the present annual report for the first time. That the Council should have set up such an important committee should give great confidence to the whole of the membership. As the chairman of that committee confessed in his introductory remarks to the Council at its last meeting—"the future of N.A.L.G.O. mainly concerns the young folk who have most of their official lifetime in front of them."

Youth has enthusiasm and ideals, but not experience. On the other hand experience has failed to serve its purpose if it represents nothing more than a cumbersome accumulation of trial and error. It must be rendered down, refined, compounded into rudiments which can be applied to the ever changing needs of ever changing time.

Insular Theories—or Good Government?

Self-examination is as good for an organization as for the soul. N.A.L.G.O.'s responsibility to the local government service is greater than any section or the individual. And now let us turn this theory completely round because it will bring us to the examination of the motives of sections, and sometimes of individuals, who endeavour now and then to impose upon Conference theories of organization which are insular or personal. Motives which spring from the likes and dislikes of individuals often crystallise into amendments to the policy of the National Executive Council and they seldom suffer from a want of enthusiasm. Conference must be on its guard against being misled into following the lead of persons who have not sensed the benevolence of the true principles of government. Tolerance is still a virtue even in this imperfect world.

AGENDA OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE, 1937, AT MARGATE

NOTE.—The proceedings will commence at 9.30 a.m. on Saturday, the 15th May, 1937, and on Monday, the 17th May, 1937. The Conference will adjourn for luncheon at 12.30 p.m. and reassemble at 2.30 p.m. on each day, unless otherwise determined.
The Session, on Saturday morning will be open to all local government officers and the public.

1. OFFICIAL WELCOME BY THE MAYOR OF MARGATE (ALDERMAN W. R. NOBLE) AND MEMBERS OF THE CORPORATION.
2. PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONFERENCE HELD ON THE 30th MAY and 1st JUNE, 1936.
3. THE MAYORESS OF MARGATE, MRS. NOBLE, WILL RECEIVE THE PURSES OF THE BENEVOLENT AND ORPHAN FUND.
4. THE MAYORESS OF MARGATE, MRS. NOBLE, WILL PRESENT THE "SIR HOMEWOOD CRAWFORD" SHIELD, THE "SIR CHARLES WAKEFIELD" (LORD WAKEFIELD) SHIELD AND THE "BRIDLINGTON" CUP.
5. HONORARY TREASURER'S FINANCIAL STATEMENT.
6. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE'S REPORT AND NOTICES OF MOTION AND AMENDMENTS RELATIVE THERETO.
7. PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.
8. DECLARATION OF RESULT OF ELECTION OF COUNCIL AND HONORARY OFFICERS.
9. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS FOR THE YEAR 1937.

Notice of Motion given by the National Executive Council.

That Messrs. Jackson, Pixley & Co., Chartered Accountants of Kent House, Telegraph Street, London, E.C.2 be appointed the Association's auditors for the year 1937, and that a fee of five hundred and twenty-five pounds (£525) be paid to them for their services.

10. PAPERS AND DEBATES ON MATTERS OF INTEREST TO THE SERVICE, AND ADDRESSES.
11. APPOINTMENT OF SCRUTINEERS.
12. HONORARY TREASURER'S FINANCIAL STATEMENT, ETC.
13. SALARIES AND SERVICE CONDITIONS.

Notice of Motion given by the Yorkshire District Committee.

- (a) This Conference welcomes the recent comprehensive questionnaire on salaries and service conditions issued by the National Executive Council to branches, and recognises that the data collated therefrom will provide a valuable review of the position throughout the country as well as reveal where inadequate salaries and unsatisfactory service conditions exist.
- (b) This Conference agrees that it shall be the duty of the National Executive Council to draw the attention of branches with depressed conditions to the potential danger offered thereby to officers of other districts and to request their careful reconsideration of their position.
- (c) This Conference affirms that a national effort by the National Executive Council should be made to ensure that every local government officer shall have satisfactory service conditions, along with an adequate salary at a reasonable marrying age.

14. NATIONAL WHITLEY COUNCIL.

Notice of Motion given by the National Executive Council.

- (a) That this Conference places on record its intense satisfaction at the reformation of the National Whitley Council, pledges its unswerving support thereto, and trusts that it will have a long career of usefulness to the advantage of the local government service and the officers.
- (b) That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Labour, the Scottish Office and the associations of local authorities.

15. POST-ENTRY TRAINING.

Notice of Motion given by the National Executive Council.

That this Conference urges local authorities to take a greater interest in the post-entry training of local government officers and to afford the greatest possible facilities for their staffs to undertake post-entry training.

16. HOLIDAY CENTRES.

Notice of Motion given by the Leeds Branch.

1. This Conference views with grave concern the action of the N.E.C. in committing the Association to an expenditure computed at £15,000 on improvements and rebuilding at the Croyde Bay Centre, in view of the financial position of the Holiday Centres of the Association as disclosed in the published accounts, and calls for :—
 - (a) A statement of the present actual market value of each of the Holiday Centres.
 - (b) In view of past losses at the Centres and the possibility of future losses, the publication with the accounts each year of a detailed statement showing the attendance at each Holiday Centre, as to :—
 - (i) Number of N.A.L.G.O. members.
 - (ii) Number of dependents of N.A.L.G.O. members.
 - (iii) Number of other visitors.
2. This Conference instructs the N.E.C. not to proceed with the acquisition of additional Homes or Centres until such time as it has been proved to the satisfaction of Conference that the existing Centres can be carried on for the benefit of members without serious loss to the Association; and further to suspend all development and replacement schemes (except of a necessary and routine character).

17. BENEVOLENT AND ORPHAN FUND RULES.

Notice of Motion given by the National Executive Council.

That the present rules and constitution of the Benevolent and Orphan Fund be abolished and the following substituted therefor :—

Title.

- 1.—The Fund shall be called "The Benevolent and Orphan Fund of the National Association of Local Government Officers."

Definitions.

- 2.—In these Rules, unless the context otherwise requires :

"Annual Conference" means the Annual Conference of the Association, and shall include any special Conference that may be held;
 "Association" means the National Association of Local Government Officers;
 "Council" means the National Executive Council of the Association;
 "District Committee" means a District Committee of the Association;
 "Branch" means a branch of the Association;
 "Fund" means the Benevolent and Orphan Fund of the Association;
 "Honorary Member" means any person other than a member of the Association or officer or servant thereof qualifying in accordance with Rule 5b;
 "Member" means a person who contributes to the Fund according to the provisions of Rule 5a;
 "Trustees" means the Trustees for the time being of the Fund.
 "Year" means the period commencing on the first day of November in any year and ending on the thirty-first day of October in the following year.
 Words importing the masculine gender include the feminine, the singular includes the plural and the plural includes the singular.

Objects.

- 3.—The objects of the Fund shall be to afford, in cases of poverty or distressing circumstances, assistance to the following classes of persons :

- (1) members;
- (2) bona-fide dependents of members;
- (3) bona-fide dependents of deceased members;
- (4) members of the Association;
- (5) bona-fide dependents of members of the Association;
- (6) bona-fide dependents of deceased members of the Association;
- (7) past members of the Fund or the Association who have left the local government service and who at the date of leaving the local government service were members of the Association;
- (8) bona-fide dependents of past members of the Fund or of the Association.

The Council may at their discretion refuse to grant assistance in any case and shall not be bound to assign any reason for so doing.

- 4.—The Council may, out of the Fund :—

- (i) lease, acquire, endow or maintain :—
 - (a) a Convalescent home or homes;
 - (b) a Rest home or homes; or
 - (c) an Orphan home or homes; and
- (ii) make such other provision as they may from time to time determine.

Membership and Contributions.

- 5.—(a) Any person who is a member of the Association, a retired member of the Association or an officer or servant thereof contributing to the Fund :—
- a personal donation of not less than £2 2s. od. in any one year shall be a "life member";
 - a monthly subscription of not less than 3d. which shall be payable in advance, shall be a "contributing member."
- (b) Any other person :—
- contributing to the Fund not less than £2 2s. od. in one payment;
 - who is, or has been, interested in the work of the Association or of the Fund, and who is elected an honorary life member by the Council,
- shall be an honorary life member of the Fund.

Administration of the Fund.

- 6.—The Fund shall be administered by the Council.

Directions by Council.

- 7.—The branches and the District Committees shall conform to any directions which may from time to time be given by the Council for dealing with applications for assistance, and for the purpose of securing uniformity of treatment of applications.

Regulations.

- 8.—Subject to these Rules, the Council shall have power to make Regulations (including standing orders) to regulate all matters not provided for by these Rules, and to do all other acts or things which they may deem necessary for attaining the objects of the Fund.

Security for Loans, etc.

- 9.—The Trustees may accept as consideration for any loan, allowance or annuity to be paid, granted or made by the Council such security as the Council may in their discretion direct.

Secretary.

- 10.—The Secretary of the Fund shall be the person for the time being holding the position of General Secretary of the Association.

Trustees.

- 11.—The Trustees of the Fund shall be the persons who for the time being are the Trustees of the Association and shall include any Life Trustees at present in office.

Rules of the Association.

- 12.—The Rules and Constitution of the Association as regards the vesting of property, the investment of monies, the holding of land, the keeping of accounts, the indemnification of members of the Council and officers of the Association, and in all other respects whatsoever, so far as may be applicable, shall apply to the Trustees, the Council and the Fund, as if expressly incorporated therein.

Amendment of Rules.

- 13.—These Rules shall not be altered or rescinded except with the consent of a Conference (subject to the provisions of Rule 29 of the Association), and subject to notice of any proposed alteration by rescinding appearing on the agenda. Notices of Motion and Amendments thereto, other than Alterations and Amendments of Rules.

18. DEATH BENEFIT SCHEME.**1. Notice of Motion given by the National Executive Council.**

That, in view of the fact that the majority of branches appears to be opposed to the establishment of a death benefit scheme, no further action be taken in connexion with the resolution on this subject passed at the Annual Conference 1936.

2. Notice of Motion given by the Leicester City Branch.

That this Conference instructs the National Executive Council to promote a Death Benefit Scheme whereby the premium will be equally divided between the Branch and the Association with no consequent rise in present subscription rates.

19. RULE 4—DEFINITIONS.**Notice of Motion given by the National Executive Council.**

That Rule 4 of the rules and constitution of the Association be amended as follows :—

RULE 4—DEFINITIONS.

Delete the words "having been a member" from line 1 of the definition of Retired Member.

After the word "Service" in line 2 of the definition insert "and who on the day immediately preceding the date of his retirement from the Service had been continuously a member for a period of 2 years."

NOTE.—The following is the effect of the proposed amendments, the deletion being in *italics* and the additions in **black** :—
 "Retired Member" means a person who *having been a member* has retired from the Service and who on the day immediately preceding the date of his retirement from the Service had been continuously a member for a period of 2 years, and is elected a retired member by the Council on the nomination of his Branch. Provided that a retired member shall not be eligible for membership of the Council or any Committee thereof, or to hold office in a District Committee or a Branch, either elective or ex-officio.

20. CONSTITUTION OF NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.**Notice of Motion given by the National Executive Council.**

That rule 33 of the rules and constitution of the Association be amended as follows :

- Delete the word "and" from line 3 of clause (a);
- Add the following new clause (b) :
 "The Chairman of each of the following bodies, viz. :
 the Nalگو Approved Society Committee of Management;
 the Nalگو Provident Society Committee of Management;
 the Nalگو Building Society Committee of Management;
 the Board of Management of the National and Local Government Officers Mutual Insurance Association Limited;
 who is not otherwise elected or appointed as a member of the Council in accordance with the provisions of these rules and who shall be an ex-officio member of the Council during the period of his chairmanship; and"
- Renumber clause (b) as clause (c).

21. RULE 48—CASUAL VACANCIES.**Notice of Motion given by the National Executive Council.**

That Rule 48 of the Rules and Constitution of the Association be amended as follows :—
 Delete all words after "occur" in the final sentence of the rule and substitute the words "between the 1st day of January and the commencement of the Annual Conference in any year" therefor.

NOTE.—The following is the effect of the proposed amendment, the deletions being in *italics* and the additions in **black** :—

48.—Casual Vacancies.—On a casual vacancy arising among the ordinary members of the Council, notice thereof shall be given by the General Secretary to each of the Branches comprising the District concerned, such notice to state that nominations of candidates to fill the vacancy must be lodged with the General Secretary within fourteen days of the date of the issue of the notice, and he shall forthwith notify to each nominee the fact of his or her nomination, with a notice that such candidates may withdraw their candidature by notifying the fact in writing not later than seven days after the receipt of the notification of nomination. The General Secretary shall forward voting papers to the Secretary of each of such Branches within seven days after the last day for receiving withdrawals, such voting papers to be returned to the Secretary of the District Committee not later than ten days after their issue by the General Secretary. The District Committee shall arrange for the immediate counting of the voting papers, and declare the result in the same manner as provided in Rule 47. The District Committee shall cause the results to be notified to the General Secretary, and to the Branches in its area, within seven days of the votes being counted. If a casual vacancy occurs in connection with the women's direct representatives, the Council may, in its discretion, fill the vacancy from among the unsuccessful candidates at the preceding election, or arrange for the election of a new member. In the latter event, the Council shall make such arrangements for the election as it may deem expedient. In all other respects the procedure for filling casual vacancies (including nominations) shall be consistent with the Rules in force for regulating the annual election of the Council. Provided that no steps shall be taken to fill any casual vacancy which may occur *after the 1st day of January in any year* between the 1st day of January and the commencement of the Annual Conference in any year.

22. ORDER OF CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS.**Notice of Motion given by the South Eastern District Committee.**

That the National Executive Council be instructed to give earnest consideration to an alteration in the order of Conference proceedings either by re-arrangement, curtailment of formal speeches or extension of duration, in order to provide adequate time for the consideration of all matters on the Agenda and for meetings of ancillary bodies, and to report hereon at the 1938 Conference with notices of motion for any necessary amendments to rules.

23. SECTIONAL OR DEPARTMENTAL MEETINGS OF DELEGATES.

Notice of Motion given by the Stockport Branch.

That this Conference, being in favour of holding Sectional or Departmental meetings of delegates attending Conferences, hereby instructs the N.E.C. to call such meetings at the 1938 Conference.

24. CODE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT.

Notice of Motion given by the East Ham Branch.

That this Conference is of opinion that a Code of Professional Conduct for all members of the local government service is desirable and instructs the National Executive Council to prepare such a Code for submission to the Annual Conference in 1938.

25. RELIEF OF DISTRESS IN SPAIN.

Notice of Motion given by the Walthamstow Branch.

That this Conference expresses the view that N.A.L.G.O. should be associated with the movement for the relief of distress in Spain occasioned by the Civil War, and directs the National Executive Council to consider the question of making grants for assistance.

26. HEALTH AND PENSIONS ACTS (1925).

Notice of Motion given by the North Western and North Wales District Committee.

That in the opinion of this Association, representing 94,000 Local Government Officers, all non-manual workers should be brought within the range of the Health and Pensions Acts (1925) and that the National Executive Council be requested to report to the 1938 Conference as to the desirability of providing for their inclusion in these Acts, by abolishing the present salary limit.

27. RULE 9—SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Notice of Motion given by the Manchester Branch.

That Rule 9 (d) be amended as follows:—

After the words "40 per cent" in line 4 insert as a new paragraph "Branches with a membership of one thousand or more 40 per cent."

NOTE.—Rule 9 (d) at present reads as follows:—

(d) The percentage of the total amount collected in subscriptions during each year to be retained by Branches shall be as follows:—

County Branches, when recommended by the District Committee of their area. 40 per cent.
All other Branches. 35 per cent.

28. RULE 31—EVIDENCE OF PASSING OF RESOLUTION.

1. Notice of Motion given by the Irlam Branch.

That Rule 31 of the Rules and Constitution of the Association be amended as follows:—

Add (c). In the event of the Resolution before the Conference involving a capital expenditure of more than £2,500, or any alteration of Rules, voting shall be by card vote, and the resolution shall be declared not carried unless at least two-thirds of the members represented by such card vote shall vote for it.

Should this motion be carried the following amendment to Rule 29 (a) will be moved on behalf of the Irlam Branch:—

After the words "the method of voting at a Conference shall be by a show of hands" add "except in the case of a vote taken in accordance with Rule 31 (c)."

2. Notice of Motion given by the Leicester City Branch.

That this Conference instructs the National Executive Council to consider fixing a two-thirds majority on Card Votes to be effective upon matters which would affect the constitution of the National Association of Local Government Officers.

3. Notice of Motion given by the Gloucestershire County Officers' Branch.

That the Rules and Constitution of the Association be amended to provide that any motion submitted to Conference on matters of higher or major policy shall not be put into operation unless it is carried by a majority of not less than 20 per cent. of those present and voting or in the event of a card vote of not less than 20 per cent. of the total votes recorded.

NOTE.—Rule 31 at present reads as follows:—

31. EVIDENCE OF PASSING OF RESOLUTION.

(a) In cases where votes are decided, whether by a show of hands or by a card vote, the declaration by the Chairman of the result shall be accepted as final, and an entry

to that effect in the book of proceedings of the Association shall be sufficient evidence of the fact; provided that the Chairman may, in his discretion, require that the vote by show of hands may be taken again.

(b) In the event of an equality of votes, either by show of hands or by a card vote, the Chairman shall declare the motion or amendment not carried.

29. RULE 47—COUNTING OF VOTES.

Notice of Motion given by the Metropolitan District Committee.

That Rule 47 of the Rules and Constitution of the Association be amended as follows:—

RULE 47—COUNTING OF VOTES.

Delete the words "among its members" in the sixth line of the rule and substitute the words "members of Branches in its District" thereafter.

NOTE.—The following is the effect of the proposed amendment, the deletions being in *italics* and the additions in black:—

47.—Counting of Votes.—The District Committee for each electoral area shall make arrangements for counting the votes in connection with the election of ordinary members of the Council for its own area, together with the votes of members in its area for the women's direct representatives. For this purpose the District Committee shall appoint a Presiding Officer and Scrutineers from among its members members of Branches in its District. The results shall be communicated to the candidates in attendance at the count immediately after the votes are counted, and shall be notified to the General Secretary forthwith. The results shall be declared at the Annual Conference, as provided in Rules 28 and 51.

30. DECLARATION OF VENUE OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE, 1938.

31. INDUCTION OF PRESIDENT.

32. TO INVEST THE IMMEDIATE PAST-PRESIDENT WITH A REPLICA OF THE PRESIDENT'S BADGE OF OFFICE.

33. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS.

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IN THE METROPOLIS

Metropolitan District Committee is organizing a Coronation dance at Caxton Hall, Westminster, on Saturday, May 8. Tickets are 2s. 6d. each, and may be obtained from the honorary social secretary, Mr. P. W. Bond, Town Hall, Walthamstow, E.17.

A note for your diary. **Metropolitan District** reunion concert and presentation of trophies will be on Friday, November 19, 1937, at Queen's Hall.

About 200 people attended the **Walthamstow** Branch, carnival dance on February 27, and there was quite a good gathering at the annual reunion of past and present members of the branch on March 11.

The sixteenth annual dinner and dance of the **Heston and Isleworth** Branch was held on February 26, when a presentation was made to Mr. H. Groom, the ex-honorary secretary of the branch, for his services as honorary secretary for 11 years. Mr. Groom was the recipient of a grandfather clock and a barometer.

Members of the **Fulham** Branch co-operating with members of the Fulham Borough Council in establishing a Fulham Children's Holiday Camp Fund, would be glad to have details of a vacant house, farm buildings, etc. (country or seaside), within radius of 60 miles London, giving accommodation 40-50 children, wanted for approximately 6 weeks July and August next. Details regarding rent, sanitary arrangements, facilities for bathing, etc., to F. Stanbury, Fulham Branch, Town Hall, Fulham, S.W.6.

The **East Ham** Branch has sustained a very grievous loss in the sudden death of Mr. Stanley A. Batchelor, senior clerk in the education department of that borough. Mr. Batchelor entered hospital on March 10, 1937, to undergo what was felt to be a simple operation, but on the Tuesday following he unexpectedly passed away.

He entered the local government service about 30 years ago as clerk to the local district committee of the Essex County Council. When East Ham obtained county borough status he was transferred to the East Ham education committee.

He served a brief term as a member of the general purposes sub-committee of the Metropolitan District Committee; was a member of the East Ham Branch executive committee for nearly 20 years; represented the branch at a number of the annual conferences; and served as chairman of the [branch] during the year 1934-35. He also took a very live interest in the sporting activities of the branch, serving for a number of years as chairman of the sports committee and as captain of the branch cricket club. He was very highly esteemed by the whole of his colleagues in the East Ham service—a man of sound judgment, wise in counsel and possessed of a genial and strong personality.

FROM THE NORTH-WEST

It is with great regret that we record that **Mr. N. G. Webster** died on February 24 at the age of 75, after a long and painful illness. He was with the Salford Corporation for 50 years, retiring just over 10 years ago.

On March 12 Mr. Walter Hague was presented with a mahogany bureau and bookcase from the members of the **Chester City** Branch and of the Municipal Officers' Sports Club, in appreciation of the exceptional services he has rendered to both organizations. Mr. Hague was branch secretary for the past two years and has held the secretaryship and many other offices in the sports club. Mr. Hague was also presented with a clock by his colleagues in the town clerk's department.

At the annual dinner of the **Hyde** Branch, Alderman S. Fawley, who had charge of the principal toast, "The National Association," said he had had a long association with the local members of N.A.L.G.O., with whom he had always been on very good terms. He also alluded to the long connection he had had with the Whitley Council.

The annual dinner of the **Widnes** Branch was held on February 27, when the president of the branch, Mr. James Wallace, deputy town clerk, referred to his impending departure to take up an appointment as clerk and solicitor to the Denton U.D.C., and his happy relations with the town council and his fellow officers during a term of five years' service with the Widnes authority. Mr. Wallace was the recipient of good wishes from his colleagues.

Tributes to those engaged in municipal service were paid on February 25 at the annual dinner of the **Southport** Branch.

Alderman Wood, proposing the toast of "N.A.L.G.O.," said there was the publication of a book at the instance of N.A.L.G.O., entitled "A century of municipal progress—1835-1935." It was a wonderful book and ought to be on the bookshelf of every man who claimed to be a student of municipal politics, and who aspired to represent any ward.

A further conference of branch secretaries—this time covering the more central areas of Lancashire and Cheshire—was held on February 27 and 28, at the Grand Hotel, Manchester.

The general secretary divided his address into three sections: (1) Branch and Headquarters Organization; (2) Service Conditions and Ancillaries; and (3) The Association's Higher Policy.

The quarterly meeting of the **North-Western and North Wales District Committee** was held at Manchester on February 27, under the chairmanship of Mr. W. H. Whinnerah. The vice-chairman of the District Committee, Mr. J. W. Singleton, the honorary treasurer, Mr. J. D. Cannell, and the divisional secretary were present, and the following members

of the National Executive Council: Mr. J. W. Wilkinson, Mr. T. Freeman, Mr. E. L. Riley, Mr. C. S. Robinson, Mr. C. A. W. Roberts, Mr. J. H. Warren, and Miss Iva Stansfield.

The chairman welcomed the delegates and introduced Mr. W. H. Legh-Smith, city treasurer of Liverpool, who has recently been appointed honorary treasurer of the National Association. It was reported that the honorary secretary, Mr. F. J. Willett, was suffering from continued ill-health. His absence was generally deplored, and it was resolved that a letter of sympathy be forwarded to Mr. Willett, expressing sympathy with him and wishing him a speedy recovery.

There was a general discussion on the provisions of the proposed Compulsory Superannuation Bill on a motion by the St. Helens Branch.

The action of the Oldham Branch in issuing a circular to branches in regard to the formation of a district federation of branches with a membership of 750 and lower was discussed and the action of the general purposes committee confirmed in deprecating the issue of such a circular and recommending branches to take no action in the matter.

A notice of motion for the 1937 conference dealing with the Health and Pensions Act, 1925, was adopted.

Mr. H. Russell, honorary secretary of the B. & O. regional committee, submitted a report and drew attention to the fact that the receipts to the fund from the North-Western and North Wales District for 1935-1936 had diminished and appealed for a greater measure of support in the future.

The St. Helens Branch representative conveyed to the officers of the B. & O. regional committee the thanks of his branch for their action in connection with a recent case.

Mr. L. H. Taylor (Salford) and Mr. A. Clark (Bolton) submitted a report of the proceedings of the conference of district committees held at headquarters on February 13.

The chairman reported the death of Sir Henry Jackson, M.P., and the delegates stood in silence as a mark of respect to his memory.

The invitation of the Liverpool Branch to hold the next district committee at Liverpool on April 10 was accepted.

The semi-finals and final of the billiards competitions (teams and individual merit) were played off on March 7, with the following results:

Teams Competition

Semi-finals: Liverpool, 851; Blackburn "A", 827. Manchester, 816; Salford, 743. Final: Liverpool, 1451; Manchester, 1249.

Individual Merit

Semi-finals: H. P. Lewtas (Blackpool), 150; G. H. Johnston (Stockport), 115. H. Haslam (Bolton), 150; V. Horan (Liverpool), 145. Final: H. Haslam (Bolton), 250; R. P. Lewtas (Blackpool), 193.

Prizes

Teams—Winners, Pewter Tea Sets. Runners-up, Cases of Fish-Eaters. Individual—Winner, Pewter Tea Set, Hot Water Jug, and Tankard. Runner-up, Case of Carvers.

(Continued on page 101)

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NORTH-EAST



Mr. S. Roxburgh, honorary secretary of the Stockton-on-Tees Branch, has just taken up duties as accountancy and internal audit assistant to the Haltemprice Urban District Council. Appointed on the staff of the borough accountant, Stockton-on-Tees, on October 15, 1928, he was the assistant secretary of the branch for the year 1932-33; honorary secretary from 1933 onwards, a member of the North-Eastern district committee and of its sports sub-committee. We wish him all success in his new sphere.

Northumberland Branch members have received the news of the decease of Mr. G. A. Hudson, assistant county surveyor, with considerable surprise and shock. Our deep sympathy is extended to Mrs. Hudson. Mr. Hudson was a member of the branch from its inception in 1919, chairman of its executive committee for some years, and conference delegate, vice-president, and president during the years 1931-32. He had served the Northumberland County Council in his capacity as engineering assistant, chief of that grade, and latterly as assistant county surveyor since 1902.

The quarterly meeting of the North-Eastern District Committee was held on February 27, 1937, at South Shields. Mr. R. E. Heron presided.

Reports were submitted by Mr. J. Y. Fawcett on the work of the B. & O. regional committee, by the divisional secretary on service conditions and organization, by Mr. W. Temperley on the work of the area education committee, and by Mr. R. Doxford on the sports activities.

The executive committee's recommendations as to allocation of seats on the North-Eastern Joint Council were approved and 15 representatives were elected from the candidates nominated.

Financial assistance was granted to certain small branches to enable them to be represented at the annual conference of the Association.

Nominations for the various honorary officers of the Association were approved for submission to headquarters.

Mr. V. Grainger reported on the proceedings of the National Executive Council and drew attention to certain items which had engaged the attention of the standing committees.

After the meeting a large number of delegates had tea together at Binn's Cafe.

The mayor, Councillor G. H. Smith, J.P., who was accompanied by the mayoress, gave a short address and expressed his pleasure in the invitation to the district committee to hold its quarterly meeting in the town

The president of the branch, Mr. E. Bailey, borough librarian, and the town clerk, Mr. Harold Ayrey, also gave short addresses.

The chairman, Mr. R. E. Heron, responded, and the thanks of the district committee for the hospitality extended to the delegates and to the mayor and mayoress for their presence and interest were ably expressed by Mr. F. Bingham, vice-chairman of the district committee.

AMONG THE BROAD ACRES

The annual dinner and dance of the Skipton Branch was held on February 16, 1937. A very enjoyable dance followed the dinner, and a bright interlude was provided by the Rainbow Concert Party.

The annual dance of the Halifax and District Branch was held on March 5, 1937. There was a reception by the mayor and mayoress, Councillor and Mrs. Crossley Hodgson, and a large attendance of members and friends contributed to a very successful function. The proceeds are to be devoted to the Benevolent and Orphan Fund, and it is anticipated that a handsome donation will accrue from this source.

The quarterly meeting of the Yorkshire District Committee was held at Keighley on February 13, 1937.

Mr. R. Courtney Gibson, borough engineer and president of the Keighley Branch, extended a very cordial welcome to the representatives.

Mr. W. W. Armitage presided, and after the minutes of the previous meeting had been approved, reports of the executive committee, area education committee, and the sports committee were submitted for confirmation.

Mr. R. E. Sopwith, in submitting the report of the area education committee, drew attention to the arrangements which had been made for the holding of a weekend school at Bingley Training College on Saturday and Sunday, April 17 and 18 next, when Mr. A. N. Shimmin, M.A., Lecturer in Economics at the University of Leeds, will lecture on "The Trends in Public Administration" and "The Effect of Economic Changes on Local Authorities."

The executive committee reported that further consideration had been given to the replies received from branches to the questionnaire on salaries, grading, and service conditions, and that a small sub-committee had been constituted to give detailed consideration to this matter and to submit a report thereon at a later date.

The divisional secretary submitted a report on service conditions and propaganda in the area, and Mr. L. M. Crow gave a report on the work of the Benevolent and Orphan Fund.

A notice of motion submitted by Mr. J. H. Clark, Wakefield, on the question of salaries and service conditions in the country was, after slight amendment, adopted as a motion to be submitted to the annual conference on behalf of the district committee. Representatives of the Leeds Branch asked for the support of the district committee in a motion for conference on the subject of the administration of the holiday centres. After a lengthy explanation by Mr. L. M. Crow the meeting agreed to support the motion subject to certain amendments.

Mr. R. Wildgoose, vice-chairman, and Mr. W. Donnan, Airedale and Wharfedale Branch, were duly elected as representa-

tives of the district committee at the annual conference.

At the conclusion of the meeting the delegates were entertained to tea at the invitation of the Mayor of Keighley, Councillor T. Wardle, J.P., who was accompanied by the mayoress, and in the course of a very inspiring address extended a very cordial welcome to the delegates.

The chairman suitably replied and expressed the pleasure and thanks of the district committee.

EAST MIDLANDS

Mr. G. H. Parkin has just retired from the service of the Hucknall Council, after having served for 24 years as collector. At the March meeting of the finance committee the chairman expressed to Mr. Parkin the appreciation of the council for his long and valuable services. He hoped that Mr. Parkin would have good health and live long to enjoy his retirement. Replying, Mr. Parkin suggested that the three chief attributes of a local government officer were that he should be a student of human nature, have an abundant sense of humour, and be endowed with a large measure of patience. Mr. Parkin is honorary secretary of the Hucknall Branch, had served for several years on the East Midland District Committee and was at one time chairman of that committee. We wish Mr. Parkin a happy, healthy, and pleasurable period of rest from the strain of the daily round. He has certainly earned it.

The annual dinner of the Lindsey County Officers' Branch was held recently under the chairmanship of Mr. Eric W. Scorer, clerk to the Lindsey County Council, Councillor A. W. Harrison, in proposing the toast "N.A.L.G.O.," mentioned that he had once been a local government officer and he urged all entrants to the service to join the Association, which had such a wide field of activities and could prove of great benefit to all interested in local government.

The annual dinner of the Derby Branch was a very successful and enjoyable function.

In proposing the toast "N.A.L.G.O.," Alderman Raynes said that there were two things in the public life of the country of which they were justly proud—the devotion to service of men and women elected to serve in public administration without reward, and the high standard of efficiency of the staffs of local authorities. In his opinion N.A.L.G.O. had played no small part in fostering a conscientious spirit and efficiency in local government.

About 300 guests attended a dance organized by the Leicester Branch on March 2. The proceeds will be devoted to the Benevolent and Orphan Fund of the Association.

Mr. Edward Godfrey, borough treasurer, presided over the annual dinner of the Ilkeston branch held on February 19.

Councillor J. E. Smith proposed the toast "N.A.L.G.O." and paid a tribute to the Association; the president responded. In responding to the toast "The Visitors," Mr. J. E. N. Davis, divisional secretary, paid a tribute to the support which the branch has given to the National Association.

WEST MIDLANDS

Walsall Branch 2nd XI entertained the Kidderminster Branch team on March 13 and won after a very good game by 4-3. At Kidderminster earlier in the season the sides drew 3-3.

The 1st XI has been a member of the Birmingham Amateur Association since 1933, when it entered the 5th division of the senior league. As a result of winning its division in successive seasons it is now in the 2nd division, and lying quite close to the leaders.

The 2nd XI has only this season played in the league in the 3rd division of the intermediate section, but is likely to gain promotion at the first attempt.

Councillor Miss C. E. Hazel, proposing the toast of the Association at the annual dinner-dance of the **West Bromwich** Branch on February 19, said she was struck by the marvellous progress made by N.A.L.G.O., which was established in 1905. It now had a membership of over 93,000, and one could realise what a power for good or evil those members could be in the land when one considered the responsible positions they held.

The eighth annual staff dinner was held at the Shire Hall, **Warwick**, on February 26. In responding to the toast "The Staff," proposed by Councillor Heber-Percy, Mr. L. Edgar Stephens, clerk of the county council and president of the branch, said that a year ago the guild became a branch of N.A.L.G.O. "Last year I urged all those present and all members of the guild to join the new organization. I am very glad to be able to tell you this evening that we are twenty or more than we were this time last year. When a census was taken three days after the change over 201 members of the staff had joined the new branch—to-night we have just touched the 300 mark for the first time. That is a record. To-night we have 167 sitting down at these tables, which is a record. I see some present who have not yet joined the branch. I would urge those who are not members to join up. The staff should be the branch and the branch should be the staff; the two should be synonymous."

The second annual dinner of the **Hales Owen** Branch held on February 16 was a well attended and very enjoyable function.

EASTERN

At the annual dinner of the **Ipswich** Branch, the mayor congratulated N.A.L.G.O. on the formation of the joint advisory committee. "It is to my mind," he said, "a further indication of what is a very pleasing growth among local governing bodies and in industry generally. I hope, however, that it is not only going to be simply a salaries and conditions of employment committee, excellent as I consider that to be, but in the growing complexities of local government to-day I am looking to the development of such advisory committees as this to play a very much more important part in the life of our town and in local government generally."

The **Saffron Walden and District** Branch held a successful social on March 8 in the form of a military whist drive and dance, the company numbering over 150.

The quarterly meeting of the **Eastern District Committee** was held in London on February 20, 1937, when Mr. W. E. Hudson (Essex) presided.

Silver cups for competition in the district in connection with the B. & O. Fund were presented by Dr. T. Ruddock-West, county medical officer of health for Norfolk and president of the Norfolk Branch, on behalf of himself and other Norfolk chief officers, and Mr. C. V. H. Smith, honorary secretary of Southend-on-Sea Branch, on behalf of that branch. For some time a cup presented by the Norwich Branch has been available for competition, but experience has proved that the smaller branch, making a special effort, has the best chance of gaining the award. The committee decided that the three cups now available should be awarded to the branches contributing the highest average amount per member, one to be competed for by branches with a membership not exceeding 50, the second for branches with a membership exceeding 50 and not exceeding 200, and the third for branches with a membership exceeding 200. The best thanks of the district committee were accorded to the donors.

Considerable interest was aroused by the report of the chairman on his attendance at a recent conference of district committee representatives and it was resolved that a representative of this committee should be authorised to attend all future conferences on similar lines.

On a motion by Mr. C. V. H. Smith on behalf of the Southend-on-Sea Branch, duly seconded, it was resolved that the attention of the National Executive Council should be called to the desirability of establishing a holiday centre in the Eastern or South-Eastern Districts. It was pointed out that there were many desirable spots on the east coast where such a centre could be established, and the N.E.C. might even consider it desirable that a holiday centre should be established there instead of on the south coast, where up to the present it has apparently not been found possible to establish such a centre.

The hearty congratulations of the committee were offered to the Clacton-on-Sea Branch on the adoption by the council of the provisions of the Superannuation Act.

Mr. T. M. Kershaw, divisional secretary, reported on his work in the area, Mr. E. F. Bacon on the last meeting of the B. & O. regional committee, and Messrs. A. Denton Ogden and E. F. Bacon on the work on the National Executive Council and its committees during the past quarter.

SOUTH-EAST

A successful dinner, dance, and whist drive was held recently by the **Tunbridge Wells** Branch. The mayor said that he had been asked to make a very interesting presentation (which took the form of a gold wristlet watch) to the president, Mr. Harry T. Taylor, in appreciation of the branch's gratitude for his untiring interest in N.A.L.G.O. From 1900 to 1907 Mr. Taylor was a member of the Folkestone Municipal Officers' Guild; from 1907 to 1909 he was a member of the Wimbledon Branch of N.A.L.G.O.; from 1909 to 1912 he was a member of the Hornsey Branch, during which period he served on the executive committee; and from 1912 to 1925 (except War years) he was a member of the Kettering Branch, during which period he was chairman of the executive committee, and served on the Southern and later on the East Midland District Com-

mittees. From 1926 to date he had been a member of the Tunbridge Wells Branch. Mr. Taylor had been chairman of the executive committee, and succeeded Mr. W. C. Cripps as president ten years ago. During the time he had been in Tunbridge Wells Mr. Taylor had served on the Benevolent and Orphan Fund regional committee and the South-Eastern District executive committee, and with few exceptions he had attended the annual conferences held at Whitsuntide.

Socially and financially the **Bexhill** Branch charity ball, held on March 16, was a big success. It was the first time the branch had attempted anything on this scale, and the popularity of the event can be gauged from the fact that after all the tickets, limited to just over 300, had been sold, other applicants had to be refused. It was announced that there would be about £15 to hand over to the hospital, and the mayor described this as very creditable to the organizers, whom he thanked for a jolly evening and for helping the hospital in this way.

The **Worthing and District** Branch held a whist drive and dance on February 26, which proved to be one of the most successful functions ever organized by the municipal officers.

Sixty-five people took part in the whist drive, and several novelty dances were introduced, which provoked much laughter.

SOUTH AND SOUTH-WEST

A company of 45 sat down to the annual dinner of the **Basingstoke and District** Branch, held on February 26, 1937. The Southern District Cricket Cup, of which the branch are joint holders with High Wycombe, was on view. A collection for the B. & O. Fund realised £1 3s. 6d.

The popularity of the **Gloucester** Municipal Officers' annual ball was manifest when over 250 dancers were attracted to the function, held recently at the Guildhall.

The ball, which began in 1912, is claimed to be one of the most popular events of the dancing season in the city. It began first as a whist drive and dance, but was later changed to a dance only, and it has been an annual event since 1912, except for the Great War years.

Each year the function, which is in aid of the Benevolent and Orphan Fund, gains in popularity, and were it not for the bold policy of the committee in limiting the number of tickets it doubtless would be attended by more people.

The annual dinner of the **Wilts County** Branch was held on March 8 under the chairmanship of Mr. P. R. Trapp, clerk of the Devizes Rural District Council, and president of the branch. Mr. C. J. Newman, of Exeter, was the guest of the evening, and proved his eloquence in replying to the toast of the Association. Features of a very successful evening were the high standard of the entertainment given by members of the branch and an auction sale in aid of the Benevolent and Orphan Fund.

SOUTH WALES

A successful whist drive and dance were held under the auspices of the **Carmarthen** Branch. As a result of this effort the B. & O. Fund will benefit to the extent of £30.

The recent annual meeting of the **Bridgend Branch** extended a hearty welcome to Mr. H. A. E. Gardner and congratulated him on his appointment as clerk-accountant to the Bridgend U.D. Council. Mr. Gardner was formerly engaged at Bridgenorth.

Congratulations were also extended to Mr. E. Whone, surveyor and sanitary inspector to the Cowbridge R.D. Council, whose name was included in the recent Honours List. He was awarded the order of M.B.E. In response, Mr. Whone stated he felt proud of the honour conferred upon him if only for one thing—that the local government officer was being recognised for the important work entrusted to him.

The branch also congratulated Mr. H. W. Adams upon his promotion to manager-clerk of the Mid-Glamorgan Water Board. Mr. Adams suitably responded.

* * *

The **South Wales and Monmouthshire District Committee** met at Newport on February 27, Mr. J. W. Clayton (Pontypridd) presiding over a large attendance of representatives.

The committee congratulated Mr. Vernon Lawrence on his appointment as clerk to Monmouthshire County Council.

Mr. J. E. N. Davis, divisional secretary, reported that the membership in South Wales had grown to 4,627 in 1936, and there was an increase of 1,000 members during the past five years.

Reports on salaries and service conditions showed improved salary scales for male junior officers in Cardiff, and that Chepstow Rural Council* and Newland Urban Council had adopted superannuation schemes.

There was considerable discussion on the Bill which the Government propose to introduce this session to amend the Local Government and Other Officers' Superannuation Act, 1922, and to make it compulsory for all whole-time officers.

Mr. A. J. Gould and Mr. Granville Llewellyn reported on the proceedings of the National Executive Council.

After the meeting the members of the committee were entertained to tea by the Mayor of Newport, Major J. C. Vincent. In a speech, the mayor said that in his opinion there should be a uniform basis of salaries throughout the country.

Councillors, he added, could not be expected to know about local government matters as well as those who spent their lives in the work. He understood N.A.L.G.O. was formed in 1905 with a membership of 8,000 and was now growing towards 100,000. That was excellent progress, and showed that there was a distinct need for the Association, for whose activities he had nothing but praise.

Referring to the Association's efforts for Whitley Councils, the mayor said he thought there was a need for machinery to deal with authorities as a whole. There was a variation of salary standards between one authority and another, and it seemed to him that there should be some unification and some basis whereby local government officers throughout the country should get the same conditions.

It would be all to the good if N.A.L.G.O. and the authorities concerned could bring about a joint council to thrash out service matters at a common table and to get more satisfactory arrangements.

On the proposition of Mr. Rhys Williams, honorary secretary of the district committee, the mayor was thanked.

Among the New Publications

To the world at large, Manchester means cotton. To most English people who have never seen it, it is a music-hall joke signifying "the town where it is always raining and the people have funny voices." To the student of social history, it is one of the most formidable examples of the changes wrought by the industrial revolution. To the devout Mancunian, it is the temple of hard work, common sense, music and plain dealing. To the lover of beauty it is a disaster. Miss R. R. Ryan, authoress of "**Manchester**" (Methuen, 5s. net), was born in Manchester at the beginning of this century and lived there, except for short intervals, till she was grown up. Except for one chapter, the book is a narrative of her experience and the hero and villain is Manchester—often mocked or flattered, never over-loved.

"**The Brimming Lake**," by Ashley Smith (Eyre & Spottiswoode, 7s. 6d. net), is a proletarian novel. Mr. Ashley Smith, London born of Jewish forebears, knows the Cockneys, Gentile and Jewish, as only those born among them can. In this book, his canvas is an East-end borough, seen largely through the working of its municipal machinery, where idealism, graft, genuine charity and mere self-aggrandisement play their parts. In Magnus Haggerty, the Socialist "agitator," windy, drunk with words, always falling short of his genuine idealism, and in Deirdre, his wife, as certain of her mission as any saint, the author has created two unforgettable portraits, while the host of minor characters is sketched in with that sensitive perfection which is the author's outstanding gift.

One of the essentials to a successful career of knight errantry is the timely arrival of a damsel in distress. Peter Justice, when he turned from crime to the more picturesque profession of the modern Sir Lancelot, was well favoured in this respect because the young lady on the train was in very real danger. Valiantly he took up the cudgels in her name and soon found himself groping blindly in a world of mystery and sudden death. What was it that Farrington Joyner knew? What was Inspector Tagholm, of Scotland Yard, doing at the Angel Inn? And what was the connexion between the mysterious Mr. Roe and the saintly gunman who called himself the Reverend Tobias Lindsay? Peter is determined to find the answers and "**The Sword of Justice**," by Francis Duncan (Herbert Jenkins, 7s. 6d. net), telling of his investigations, makes a first-class thriller. Incidentally, Francis Duncan is but a nom-de-plume, hiding the identity of yet another versatile member of N.A.L.G.O., whose style is as good as the best in this class of fiction and whose narrative never palls for want of action.

In the February issue of **LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE** a note was published of Fabian Society tract number 218, "**The County Council : What it is and What it Does**." That tract excluded all reference to the London County Council and now the Fabian Society has published a special tract, number 243, about the largest local authority in the world.

It is written by Mr. A. Emil Davies, who has just been appointed deputy chairman of the London County Council and, whilst naturally critical in parts, it is largely factual and extremely interesting. It makes very easy reading and is well interspersed with the lighter side of local government. It is well worth spending the modest sum of threepence to obtain a copy.

The Public Health Act, 1936, will come into operation on October 1 next. In the meantime, it will be necessary for those responsible for public administration to become acquainted with the alteration in the law effected by the Act. It is doubtful whether an exhaustive treatise on the Act, dealing not only with the alteration in the law but also with the extensive alteration in the language in which familiar provisions are expressed and the effect of this alteration in language on the validity of decisions based on the language of the former Acts, can be produced before October, 1937. In the meantime, Mr. Harold B. Williams has prepared a shorter book, "**The Public Health Act, 1936**" (Butterworth & Co., 37s. 6d. net), which gives complete references to the sections of the former Acts which are replaced or reproduced in this Act, and for the convenience of those who are familiar with those Acts he has included two tables of reference to the corresponding sections and a table of incorporated provisions. A weighty tome, but invaluable at this stage of preparation for the birth of a new era.

During the past ten years 14,000 children under the age of fifteen years have been killed on the roads and a further 400,000 have been maimed or injured. This is a terrible toll, and every sufferer is a boy or girl standing at the threshold of life, brightly expectant of the joy and fullness that life offers and entitled to the best that life can give. This problem is one to be solved by adult brains and the solution must be inculcated into the child mind and that is why Major C. V. Godfrey, in "**Roadsense for Children**" (Humphrey Milford, 2s. 6d. net), has rendered a public service. The sincere manner in which he, as chief constable of Salford, has tackled the problem of child safety upon the roads of that city is a wonderful example and an inspiration. But he has not been content with that. He has displayed a sufficiency of public spirit to put into book form the results of his experiments, to contribute his quota to the pool of collective thought on this urgent question, and to lay before those who are sufficiently interested his ideas of how best to allay this terrible scourge.

LITERARY NOTE

What is the interest on £80 for 8 months at 4 per cent per annum? On what day of the week did June 22nd, 1897, fall? Of what proportion is the Litre to the Imperial Gallon? These and many other everyday problems are readily solved by Brodie's "**Mathematical Desk Companion**," a copy of which has been sent us by the publishers. Beautifully printed in clear type and on good paper, it is truly a remarkable publication at the low price of threepence. It is published by James Brodie, Ltd., Denmark Place, London, W.C.2.

Home Gardening

By WALTER P. WRIGHT

Author of "Roses and Rose Gardens," "Alpine Flowers and Rock Gardens,"
"The Wright Encyclopedia of Gardening,"

A BATCH of healthy chrysanthemums is so extraordinarily useful to cut from in late summer and early autumn that every good husband—indeed, every man worth catering for in these monthly jottings—will make a planting soon, so that the lady of the establishment can have her way. From the middle to the end of April is generally favourable for planting, but really the selection of varieties and the early treatment of the plants are more important than the exact time of planting. As regards selection, some people go wrong through choosing varieties of which they see good specimens in the markets. This is not necessarily the best course, because such plants may have been specially treated. Immense numbers are grown under glass in the Home Counties, and disbudded several times so as to produce a limited number of large flowers—admittedly beautiful, but if produced outdoors in a wet summer and autumn are liable to be spoiled by rain, becoming horribly soppy. The ideal plant is one that has been stopped only twice, once in spring and again about the middle of June. It is a good plan to ask the florist to supply once-stopped plants when ordering, then you know that all you have to do is to pinch off the tips of the shoots which have resulted from his stopping at the time just stated.

Then as to varieties, I would choose small-flowered rather than large-flowered for outdoor cut blooms, because for one thing they are lighter in structure and therefore are more graceful, and for another because they will endure adverse weather far better than the large types. It is a good plan to make a note of a variety which is offered in several different colours, because, for good reasons, such sorts have become popular in their earliest form. Take for example *Roi des Précoces*, a name which amounts to King of the Earlies in plain English. There are at least five forms of it, the names being anglicised into *Bronze Précoce*, *Chestnut Précoce*, *Pink Précoce*, *Rose Précoce*, and *Salmon Précoce*. No great flaunting sorts are these, but they are undeniably pretty and floriferous, while standing up to all weathers. Again, there is the *Pearson* type, represented in the first place by Mrs. J. Pearson, a bronzy red, then by its sport, Mrs. Phil Page, somewhat similar to the parent in colour, but brighter, and thirdly by Mrs. Douglas Foxwell, a bright red sport from Mrs. Phil Page. This set produces smallish flowers, but they are borne on long stems and the plants can be grown without disbudding, and still yield large quantities of excellent cutting material. *Cranfordia* is an oddish yellow, not perhaps so showy as H. Sutcliffe, but still useful. The great Herbert is a fine bloom and of lovely colour, but the flowers incurve somewhat, and therefore suffer from heavy rain. Purity, and Sanctity are lovely market whites, but *Snowflake* is safer for outdoor cut-flower production.

Give these chrysanthemums a piece of

good soil, please, and be generous with the staking. It even pays to give each plant a square of four 4-ft. stakes, thus providing a surface height of at least three feet.

Finally, remember that chrysanthemums are nearly as good in town as in country gardens, which cannot be said of roses and some other things.

Owners of small gardens sometimes find it advisable to drop a particular plant after two or three years of cultivation in order to provide room for something else. I have done this myself with *Allwoodii* carnations, although not without regret. They are now to have another turn, and I suggest that some of my readers think of them too, for they are pretty without being bulky, and yield a nice lot of cheerful-looking and fragrant cut bloom. Most of them are eyed flowers—that is, they have a central blotch. Dorothy and Susan are good examples. Alice and Jean are good eyed whites. Like the pink family generally, they do well without yard manure, any friable loamy soil, preferably dressed with hop manure, suiting well.

Readers on the look out for a first-class bedding pansy should make a note of *Lord Beaconsfield*. It is an old stager, but one that holds its place through sheer merit, being of a rich purplish tone with lighter shading, very profuse and also lasting.

In connection with violas, I believe that last year I mentioned here a fine blue which I had picked up, unnamed, in a florists' shop. It turns out to be one called *Pickering Blue*, and a sport from the well-known lavender variety *W. H. Woodgate*. Both are grand sorts.

I hope that the begonias are moving actively, as they should be by this time. Growers who have large old tubers with shoots an inch high or thereabouts may cut the tubers through with perfect safety, thereby multiplying flowering stock. Care will be taken, of course, to keep at least one strong shoot on each portion. Never forget that begonias abhor a tight soil, but love a loose flaky compost containing large proportions of peat and leafmould. There is no particular advantage in buying named begonias, for tubers can be bought to colour quite cheaply. There are, however, two small-flowered but very floriferous tuberous varieties which may be named: *Helena Harms*, yellow, and *Burgomaster Max*, crimson. They bloom profusely for months on end.

The fibrous-rooted Begonias are delightful as groundwork in beds or as edgings, and it is not surprising that they are rising in favour very rapidly. Such simple names as *Crimson Bedder*, *Fire King*, and *Salmon Queen* tell their own colours closely enough; and in addition there are such varieties as *Prima Donna* and *Luminosa*, respectively rose and bright red.

I may use such little amount of space as I have left by putting in a reminder of the great usefulness for cut bloom and garden decoration alike of that old-fashioned hardy annual the cosmos or cosmea.

Bridge Forum

By NEVILLE HOBSON

DON'T

Hints on Play of the Hand

I SET out a few important injunctions with reference to the play of the hand.

These are in negative form, and apply generally to both Contract and Auction. They are, of course, subject to qualifications in certain circumstances, but no attempt will be made to consider the exceptions in detail.

1. Don't lead away from A, Q or K, J, and rarely from a King (except at No Trumps—where length is the main consideration).

2. Don't lead a Singleton if you hold 4 or more trumps (unless very small ones).

3. Don't forget to show A, K in your own hand (by playing the King) before leading your partner's suit.

4. Don't cover an Honour, led from a sequence in Dummy, on the first round.

5. Don't cover a Singleton King in Dummy against No Trumps.

6. Don't leave an entry card in Dummy if it can be removed before a dangerous suit is established.

7. Don't lead any card lower than the top of a sequence.

[This has, of course, no application to the Declarer, who may false card as much as he likes.]

8. Don't play to a trick any card higher than the lowest of a sequence, or the lower of two.

9. Don't hesitate in playing to a lead.

10. Don't unguard two suits when discarding.

11. Don't finesse against your partner.

12. Don't finesse the first round if you can do so on the second.

13. Don't draw trumps—as Declarer—until you have seen whether you can gain an extra trick by giving Dummy a ruff.

14. Don't hold up a probable winner if there is an immediate chance of saving Game or obtaining the game-winning trick.

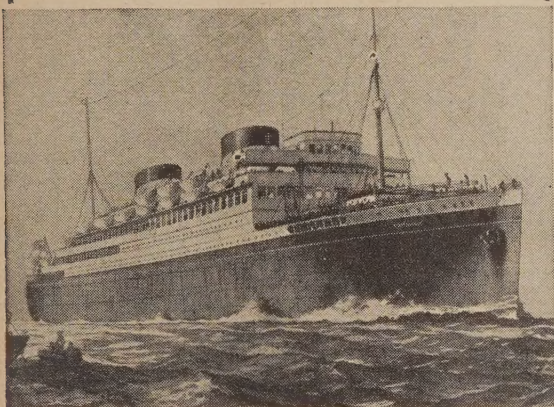
15. Don't forget to keep the score and have it in mind before each bid.

South-West Essex League

Mr. C. H. Dodson, of 131, Greenway Avenue, Walthamstow, E.17 (who is a member of the Leyton Branch of N.A.L.G.O.) is acting as Secretary or Conventor for a Contract Bridge League covering South-West Essex, and those interested in Contract in the neighbourhood of such places as Walthamstow, Chingford, Woodford, East Ham and West Ham, are asked to communicate with him.

I have inserted the above at the request of the Executive of the League, but would emphasise to Bridge enthusiasts the great advantage of Match and tournament play. Indeed, it is not until players meet others of wider and more varied experience that the majority of them really develop. My blessings on its prospective activities, but I would urge all concerned to bear in mind the slogan: "Bridge is a Game."

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General Literature

By JONAS PRAPS

Working-Class Life

George Orwell has adapted the well-known music-hall gibe as a catch title for an interesting social study in **"The Road to Wigan Pier"** (Gollancz, 10s. 6d.). The first part is a picture of the life of the poorer classes in industrial Lancashire and Yorkshire. His outline of the squalor of a cheap lodging-house, the horrible landlady, the filth and the food is realistic. The life of the miner and the horrors of unemployment he unfolds in their drab reality, but amidst it all he finds a kindness of heart often lacking in those more favourably circumstanced. The second part, devoted to discussing from personal experience class distinctions and the bourgeoisie, offers some outspoken criticism of Communists and Communism, particularly Shaw and the book-convinced type, "the astute young social-literary climbers who are Communists now, as they will be Fascists five years hence, because it is all the go, and all that dreary tribe of high-minded women and sandal-wearers and bearded fruit-juice drinkers who come flocking towards the smell of 'progress' like bluebottles to a dead cat."

Three Great Men

Three books about men are worth consideration. First the great Rudyard Kipling relates **"Something of Myself: for My Friends Known and Unknown"** (Macmillan, 7s. 6d.). The book is short, but gives the salient phases of his life, and is not loaded with lengthy correspondence. — **"The Unexpected Years,"** by Lawrence Housman (Cape, 10s. 6d.), is a life-story which must have scores of counterparts. Bred in an atmosphere of Victorian restraint, he records his struggle for freedom. In delightful language he tells the experiences of his life: in boyhood and youth, with publishers and censors, and his fights for reform in social and political movements. — G. M. Trevelyan does full justice to his subject in **"Grey of Fallodon"** (Longmans, 10s.) in a book perhaps rather overburdened with quotations. It deals with his private as well as his public life, unfolding his integrity of purpose in both spheres of activity.

Experiences

Joan Conquest is the most delightfully unconventional traveller one could wish to meet. She has travelled Europe, Asia, Africa and America, usually off the beaten track and always alone. In **"Strange Beds"** (Jarrolds, 10s. 6d.) she recounts her many adventures in those countries with strange, even risky casual acquaintances in free and easy language. Her **"G. A." (Guardian Angel)** brought her through many perilous situations. There is not a dull page in this semi-autobiographic book. — Another rather unconventional travel book is **"I Saw Spain,"** by Bernard Newman (Jenkins, 10s. 6d.). The author's companion was his bicycle "George," and George was his chief means of transport. Although the journey took place during the second half of 1936, there is little or nothing of the war.

Starting near Bilbao, he made his way across the Portuguese side of Spain down to Gibraltar, crossing from there to Spanish Morocco. — Mr. R. H. Bruce Lockhart after giving up his official career as a British agent, turns to journalism. The travel-lust again grips him and in **"Return to Malaya"** (Putnam, 10s. 6d.) he records his experiences in that romantic country. They are not seriously exciting but rather matter-of-fact happenings, together with comparisons with his experiences on a previous stay. They tell us much of the social and official life of Malaya. — **"I Found No Peace"** (Gollancz, 12s. 6d.) is the entertaining experiences of an American foreign correspondent, Webb Miller. Brought up on a farm and of a shy and nervous disposition, the profession he yearned to follow cost him much disquiet in the early stages. His work carried him to six wars on four continents, and to numberless riots, rebellions and revolutions.

Mysteries

Many of my readers will be suffering from the strain of a winter of activity, and to them a few mystery stories will come as a little necessary relaxation. These are worth mentioning. **"The General Died at Dawn,"** by Charles Booth (Bell, 7s. 6d.). Some may have seen this story of murder and intrigue filmed: it is equally enthralling in book form. — The constant cry in the libraries for "a good mystery story" is not so easily met as one would imagine: there are big differences in style and values. **"The Door Between,"** by Ellery Queen (Gollancz, 7s. 6d.), is a problem in deductions: finding the murderer by this process provides an entirely different type from the book previously mentioned. Do not let the American atmosphere deter you in the early stages. — **"The Fatal Dose,"** by B. Cobb (Longmans, 7s. 6d.), is also of the deductive type. Given a small-sized guest house the ground floor of which includes, in addition to the usual rooms, a chemist's shop, and the ingredients for a first-class poisoning mystery are ready to hand. — There is an amazing assortment of villains in **"I'll Grind Their Bones,"** by Theodore Roscoe (Harrap, 7s. 6d.), one of the best thrillers I have read for some time — the solution is well guarded.

A New Novel

"The Porch," Richard Church's first novel for two years, is recommended by the Book Society and is published by Dent's at 7s. 6d. net. It is his longest book, a story of two friends fighting side by side to self-chosen careers. The setting is the civil service — and an extraordinarily picturesque and varied setting it proves to be. The women who influence the careers and friendship of the two men and the host of entertaining minor characters who surround them are brilliantly drawn. A mature and deeply satisfying book by an assured literary artist.